

The Brooklyn Paper

Including The Brooklyn Heights Paper, Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, DUMBO Paper and the Downtown News

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HILLARY RIPS 'PARK' CONDOS

Calls luxury homes on waterfront 'disingenuous'



Sen. Hillary Clinton at the Sunset Park Senior Center on Wednesday.

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Papers

Senator Hillary Clinton criticized Brooklyn Bridge Park as "yet another luxury condo project" — and in doing so, became the highest-profile elected official to speak out against the housing, commercial and open-space development that's being promoted as a park.

Leaders of the Empire State Development Corporation — the state agency that owns the "park" site — have insisted that the project be self-sustaining. As a result, they plan to construct luxury housing as a precursor to recreational development.

"If parks had to be self-sustaining, would anyone have ever built a park?" Clinton asked.

She called the housing scheme "disingenuous."

"It's not luxury housing we need," she added. "We absolutely need affordable housing."

The project site spans the Brooklyn Heights and DUMBO waterfronts, from Atlantic Avenue to the Manhattan Bridge. The first housing is planned for the foot of Atlantic Avenue; in addition, the massive industrial building on Furman Street, between Joralemon Street and Atlantic Avenue, has been transferred from city to "park" property, allowing its owner to expand the building and convert it to residential use while skirting city review.

Clinton echoed the project's opponents, questioning

why the government would cede public land to private developers. "Public land should be public land," she said.

The senator's summer reading may have prompted her to speak out on the thorny issue. She's just

finished the still-unreleased autobiography of Nobel Prize recipient Wangari Maathai, a long-time green crusader in Kenya. "One of her great accomplishments was stopping luxury housing in Uhuru Park in Nairobi,"

said Clinton, who recommended the book.

Opponents of the state "park" plan applauded Clinton for speaking out. "We are extremely heartened by her remark," said Judi Francis, president of the Brooklyn

Bridge Park Defense Fund, which is suing the state over the financing scheme.

The Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation, the agency overseeing the development, refused to comment.

On hot night, public vents about A'Yards

The Brooklyn Papers

Three community boards surrounding Bruce Ratner's proposed Atlantic Yards mega-development held hastily scheduled, little-publicized and legally irrelevant public hearings last week to give Brooklynites a chance to vent.

Little was said that wasn't said before at the Aug. 3 hearings.

Community Boards 2 and 6, which cover tiny areas such as Brooklyn Heights, Park Slope and Fort Greene, heard almost universal opposition to the project. Community Board 8, which covers a much-less-well-off area extending from Prospect Heights to Brownsville, heard more support.

Community Board 2
Brooklyn Heights, Boerum Hill, DUMBO, Fort Greene

CB 2's meeting featured familiar complaints against the project, plus a familiar new one: That the Empire State Development Corporation released its 2,000-page environmental

review of Atlantic Yards during the summer and left too little time — just 66 days — for public review.

The hearing started off with a presentation by Forest City Ratner Vice President Jim Stuckey, making his first of three stops on the night. Stuckey defended the 16-skyscraper, arena, hotel, office space and 6,800-unit residential project on the grounds that it would create jobs, affordable housing and tax revenue while not unduly affecting the surrounding area.

After Stuckey, 29 area residents offered familiar reasons for opposing the project: its size and density; the traffic it would create; the supposedly undemocratic, state-run approval process; the public subsidies being handed to a private developer.

Only two community members spoke in support of the project. Surrounding by four fellow supporters in hard hats and orange vests, both said they supported the project because it would bring construction jobs.

Robert Ferris, district manager of

CB2, said the hearing was disappointing because the board is charged with seeking "technical" information about the DEIS, rather than merely compiling "general" complaints about Atlantic Yards.

"With the very short timetable that the state's given us for responding ... people haven't had a chance to review the tremendous amount of information" in the DEIS, he said.

— Rachel Monahan
Community Board 6
Park Slope, Carroll Gardens, Red Hook, Cobble Hill

Fireworks erupted at this otherwise routine public hearing when a representative of a Ratner-backed church group slammed the CB 6 community for choosing to "ignore" the concerns of black people who support the project.

Omar Wilks, who identified himself as speaking on behalf of the Rev. See **MEETINGS** on page 13



A long line of speakers — a few seen here in a Brooklyn Papers' photo composite — grabbed the microphones at three community board hearings on the Atlantic Yards project held simultaneously last week.



Tonics for sticky temps

Ayele Telgeren pours the Kasatini, a blend of citrus soda, sparkling wine and fruit juice, at Zipi Zape in Williamsburg. For a roundup of more cool summer cocktails, see page 9.

No electric irks Hurst

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Papers

Nostalgic for Old Brooklyn? Just take the D train to 8705 Bay Parkway in Bensonhurst, where tenants have been living without proper electricity for two weeks.

It's a real nostalgia-killer.

"Obviously, 50, 60 years ago, it wouldn't be such a big deal," said Bruce Lafrascia, landlord of the 16-unit building. "But now, people are used to certain things, and it's, like, their inalienable right."

By "certain things," Lafrascia means modern-day appliances like, you know, lamps.

"The lights go off and on, up and down," he added. "We're getting a fifth of [the electricity] we should be getting."

In response, residents have had to prioritize their modern-day luxuries.

See **HURST** on page 13



Kathleen Thompson inside her home at 8705 Bay Parkway, where a lack of electricity has caused food in her refrigerator to spoil.



Here's the play at the plate and he's...

Cyclone Jonathan Schimmel tries to get past the tag of Yankee catcher Jose Gil as umpire Adam Hamari and pitcher Luke Trudeau watch the play unfold at KeySpan Park in Coney Island, where the Clones beat the Yanks on Monday night. To find out if Schimmel was safe or out, see page 12.

H₂-WOE!

Slope mom wants you to stop drinking bottled water



A PARK SLOPE MOM IS throwing cold water on a hot-weather staple: bottled aqua — and no, she's not crazy from the heat.

Saying she wants to play a role in combating global warming, Barbara Kancelbaum has called for her fellow New Yorkers to stop buying those ubiquitous bottles of Fiji, Poland Spring and Aquafina.

Like so many campaigns these days, this one started as a passionate posting on the hyper-environmentally-aware Park Slope Parents Web site.

"Global warming is not something we can resolve locally — it will require a major international political and corporate response," Kancelbaum wrote in her Aug. 2 posting. "But here's ... something tangible we can do."

Here is the part of the typical column where the Quixotic crusader's main arguments are boiled down to

easy-to-digest bullet points (you can thank me later):

- Bottled water bottles are made from oil, a limited resource. Just making the containers alone consumes more than 1.5 million barrels of oil annually, enough to fuel 100,000 cars for a year, according to the Earth Policy Institute. (Maybe we should get rid of the cars, but that's a topic for another time.)
- It takes a lot of oil to transport bottled water from supposedly pristine springs all over the world to us. That bottle of Fiji water really does come from Fiji — and it doesn't walk here by itself.
- Thirty million bottles end up in landfills every day — and considering that New York doesn't have its own landfill anymore, we have to

See **ANGLE** on page 13

THE BROOKLYN
ANGLE By Sarah Kancelbaum

OUR OPINION

EDITORIALS

The Atlantic Yards Project

If there was ever a place in New York City to put a development that combines housing, business and a sports arena, it ought to be the Atlantic Yards site in Brooklyn, an underdeveloped area near the borough's downtown that has ready access to nine subway lines and the Long Island Rail Road. Yet the proposal by the developer, Bruce Ratner, has been controversial from the start, mainly because of opposition from area residents who fear it would change the character of their neighborhoods.

After watching the project evolve for the past few years, we feel—with a few caveats—that it deserves to go forward. The opportunities it presents, and the nearly 2,000 apartment units it will provide a housing-starved city, outweigh the problems it would entail. These advantages have been repeated endlessly by Mr. Ratner, who is also the Times's partner in building its new Manhattan headquarters. More than 2,200 of the apartment units would have rents targeted to low, moderate- and middle-income families. The Nets basketball team would bring major league sports back to Brooklyn. The buildings designed by Frank Gehry would add a sense of excitement to the entire area. And, when finished in 2016, the project will add substantially to city and state tax revenues.

The developers have addressed some of the community's early objections, particularly worries about traffic. The most important promise involves improvements to the subway stations that would make it easier for riders to move from one line to another, or to the L.I.R.R. That should be a boon to local residents, who deserve to be rewarded for enduring what will be almost a decade of construction. The plan also calls for changes in traffic lighting and a reconfiguration of traffic flow around the arena; satellite parking for basketball fans; and a program that would combine game tickets with Metrocards to keep as many fans as possible on the subway. Traffic will still be an issue when the project is finished, but the developers are not obliged to hold to the same standard. Their job is to demonstrate that their buildings will not make a bad situation intolerable, and the promises made by Mr. Ratner and his associates seem like

reasonable responses to that challenge. Community outreach has been far better in the Atlantic Yards project than it was, say, in the now-defunct plans to build a Jets stadium in Midtown Manhattan. Mr. Ratner has worked hard to deal fairly with the property owners who would be displaced by the project, but he must also take care to accommodate the rent-stabilized tenants who will have to leave. A project of this size should have a meaningful public hearing process, so it is troubling that the one has not. It would help if the 60-day public review period on the draft environmental impact statement related last month—at the height of summer—were extended another month, to late October. And while the Ratner company will finance much of the project, taxpayers are still being asked to underwrite \$300 million in direct city and state subsidies. Some \$40 million, for example, is for land acquisition for the arena, which should be a developer expense. The project may require the city to build more classrooms, expand sewer and water services and provide more police on game days. It is up to Mayor Michael Bloomberg's administration to demand from the developer every reasonable contribution to defray these extra expenses.

Finally, there is the matter of density—the biggest, and most reasonable concern. At 8.7 million square feet, the project remains enormous, even after coming down 3 percent. The non-profit Municipal Arts Society, a respected voice on urban design, came up with a still smaller version by applying city zoning standards, and parts of it are appealing, particularly in how it envisions more publicly accessible park space.

A more important issue is scale. The project would benefit if the square footage came down at least another 15 percent, which in turn would lighten the load on infrastructure, including the street. Opponents of the plan have pressed for a more dramatic downsizing, pointing to the contrast with the surrounding, low-rise neighborhood. The plan's planners are correct in seeing an opportunity to build something grander and doing it at the one place in the borough that can handle it.

Times in Bruce's corner

The New York Times, which is working with Bruce Ratner to build a new Times headquarters in Manhattan, continues to trumpet its enthusiastic view of its partner's Atlantic Yards megadevelopment. In a city section editorial that capped

a string of upbeat "news" articles and unreported stories, Times writers seemed to be working off a Ratner press release. As a service to our readers, some of whom may also occasionally read the Times, we present a more-nuanced view.

1) If it is underdeveloped, it is by design. The MTA, which owned the development rights, refused to consider other developers and ended up selling the rights to Ratner for \$100 million — \$114 million less than its value as appraised by the MTA itself, and likely hundreds of millions less than the site would fetch on the open market.

2) That's a gross simplification. Some of the project's neighbors do worry that their charming, low-rise communities will be overwhelmed by Ratner's 16 skyscrapers, but concerns about the development extend beyond NIMBYism. A few points: Ratner's track record is poor (just look at the barren Metrotech and the uninviting Atlantic Center mall); he received a sweetheart deal from the MTA for the Atlantic Yards site, as he did at Metrotech (where promised "trickle-down" prosperity, including jobs and fixed infrastructure throughout Downtown, never materialized); Atlantic Yards is skirting local public review; the state's own analysis of it says that some of its impacts cannot be fixed.

3) This watch has not been apparent. Times coverage has been sporadic and generally Ratner-friendly.

4) It is actually 6,860, although Ratner has an option to drop it to 5,790. In any event, Ratner would be expected to repeat "endlessly" the "advantages" of his project; perhaps the Times could give equal attention to skeptics who repeat "endlessly" the project's pitfalls.

5) The 2,250 "affordable" rental units would be distributed this way: 900 units to

families of four earning less than \$35,450; 450 units to families earning between \$42,540 and \$70,900; 900 units to families earning between \$70,901 and \$113,440. Ratner is receiving city, state and federal subsidies to create this affordable housing — so to the extent that affordable housing is desirable, keep in mind that Ratner's not "giving" as any; the taxpayers will foot the bill.

6) Using Ratner's own numbers, the city and state would each receive \$35 million in tax revenue annually, a tiny — not a "substantial" — amount in a \$37-billion city budget and a \$112-billion state budget.

7) Traffic remains a significant community concern. How has it been "addressed"?

8) Light timing? Traffic experts say that this won't.

9) While Ratner has said he will create satellite parking lots and work with the MTA to give Nets fans subway discounts, it is not clear if people will use them in sufficient numbers to make any difference.

10) This contradicts an earlier claim that Ratner has "addressed" traffic concerns. After the project is complete, the intersection of Fourth and Flatbush avenues will be congested all day long rather than only at rush hour at a number of intersections, according to state documents.

11) Reasonable? To whom? Residents of Manhattan? The very fact that Brooklynites are fighting the project indicates at the very least that many people do not believe Ratner's responses have been reasonable.

12) Ratner's community outreach has

consisted mostly of signing a Community Benefits Agreement that pays signatories and forbids them from criticizing the project. Several signatory groups did not even exist prior to signing, an indication of their shallow roots in "the community."

13) It is unclear whether he will. Some of Ratner's rent-stabilized tenants are preparing to sue the state to block their eviction on grounds that their rights have been violated.

14) That's too mild a word. City Council Speaker Christine Quimby, Attorney General Eliot Spitzer and all three of the affected Community Boards have demanded a longer review of the state's 2,000-page draft environmental impact statement than the perfunctory 60 days.

15) "May require?" The state DEIS treats this as inevitable — and does not put a price tag on such government-paid-for amenities.

16) When? After the project is approved? The time to get the money is up front. The very fact that the city will have to clean up Ratner's mess prescribes an earlier Times assertion that the benefits outweigh the costs.

17) This superblock project would be the most-dense Census tract in the city.

18) Coming up, you mean. The five-percent reduction in scale announced earlier this year brought the project down to 8,659 million square feet — but that's still a lot more than the 5 million square feet that the project originally contained when it was presented in 2003.

19) It's nice that the Manhattan media knows what's best for Brooklyn.

LETTERS

Owens: Lebanon position nuanced

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To the editor:

Your recent article "Owens denounces, and Yassky defends, Israel over Lebanon" [July 29], does not present my full position.

I support Israel as an ally of America, a democratic nation, and as an important center of Judaism for the entire world. There is a history of support for Israel in my family. My uncle on my mother's side was a young rabbi who believed in the creation of Israel.

My father, Rep. Major Owens, has been a strong supporter of Israel. I am proud of his record.

My parents also raised me to respect the work of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., amongst others. I want peace in this region and I support the diplomatic and humanitarian steps that will build a lasting peace in the Middle East, including an end to the bombing of Lebanon.

The simple truth remains that only through peace will everyone be secure. Hezbollah is a terrorist organization committed to the destruction of Israel, and Israel has a right to defend herself against terrorist activity, just as America does. Hezbollah's kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers was an unwarranted act that must be — and has been — condemned by the world community.

Unfortunately, Hezbollah's actions have precipitated a military and political disaster in the Middle East. While Arab nations condemn Hezbollah, and

while there is a clear understanding that the Israeli people have been victimized by Hezbollah, it is Israel, unfortunately, that could be viewed as "going too far."

Critics point to extensive bombing of residential areas of Lebanon, the death of hundreds of civilians, and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Lebanese. It is reasonable to conclude that neither Israel's long-term security nor the prospects for peace in the region are advanced by the bombing of civilian areas by either Hezbollah or Israel.

The questions that must be answered now are the following:

1) What is the plan to prevent terrorist activity in Lebanon? How will the international community assist with this plan?

2) Has the long-term security of Israel been improved by the bombing and ground invasion of Lebanon?

3) Has the position of the United States in addressing international issues improved as a result of these actions?

4) How will Lebanon be rebuilt and/or compensated for losses and who will cover those costs?

Please note that I have already proposed the development of a "regional economy" amongst the nations of Israel, the Palestinian state, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt (initially). This approach would enable all of the nations to benefit from a blend of assets and would signifi-

cantly undermine any support for terrorist activities.

Chris Owens, Project Heights
The writer is running for Congress.

Snark and awww

To the editor:

While I normally find your paper's reporting both informative and amusing, I do take issue with a recent article made about the partnership on men's health recently announced by Rep. Vito Fossella and Borough President Markowitz ("Men's health," July 29).

Men's health is about more than just "Viagra time," as your reporter chose to close the article. Prostate cancer accounts for roughly a third of all cancer cases, men are twice as likely to die of coronary disease as women and I have already had two pre-cancerous polyps removed from my colon at an early age. Men's health is serious and shouldn't be taken lightly.

Reducing all of men's health to erectile dysfunction simply perpetuates the problem that Vito and Marty are trying to shine the light on — that men are less likely to address their serious health concerns than women.

Ignatius Blums, Bay Ridge

To the editor:

Please let your reporter know that being snarky and rude is not the same as being a journalist. In two articles in the

July 29 issue, she allows snide comments to substitute for journalism.

In "Candidate and 'Goby' brother sing to seniors," she is disrespectful to a hard-working, highly respected candidate as well as condescending to the seniors whom the brothers were entertaining.

Referring to them as the "silver-haired set" and belittling the seniors with remarks like "he's braved decades of elderly ladies..." has no place in journalism. It is all right to make fun of people just because they are older.

In "Health to Brooklyn: I can quit you," your reporter is not only woefully out of date with the story — Health and Michelle have not quit Brooklyn — this non-story is incredibly rude. A story like this has no place on the front page of an award-winning newspaper.

Health and Michelle have done their best to fit into their neighborhood by participating in neighborhood activity. The fact that they bought a second home in one of their regular work locations does not make them unusual, foolish or subject to snide judgment. Further, they showed a good bit of courage by joining with Development Don't Destroy and with their neighbors in the areas biggest issue — the Ratner project. Why would you mock them for this? You owe them an apology.

Lacy Koten, Fort Greene
The writer is the liaison between Development Don't Destroy Brooklyn and Michelle Williams.

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- 8/21 vs. STATEN ISLAND YANKEES @ 7PM
HAWAIIAN LU'AU NIGHT presented by CIRCUT CITY
Special Appearance by Former New York Met SID FERNANDEZ
- 8/22 vs. HUDSON VALLEY RENEGADES @ 7PM
Come see the wacky antics of REGGY THE MASCOT presented by BUDWEISER
- 8/24 vs. ABERDEEN IRONBIRDS @ 7PM
Game presented by NEW YORK LOTTERY
- 8/25 vs. ABERDEEN IRONBIRDS @ 7PM • POST GAME FIREWORKS
Game presented by BANK OF AMERICA
- 8/26 vs. HUDSON VALLEY RENEGADES @ 6PM
26-INNING GAME CELEBRATION
- 8/29 vs. STATEN ISLAND YANKEES @ 7PM
NOTEBOOKS to the FIRST 2,500 FANS presented by STAPLES

Gunpoint holdup in doctor's office

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

A visit to a Remsen Street doctor's office was anything but routine for six patients who found themselves at gunpoint in the waiting room on Aug. 4.

A trio of thieves rushed into the medical complex, near Clinton Street, just before 5 p.m., police said. One thief pulled a silver pistol and ordered the patients to turn over their valuables. The victims—three men and three women ranging in age from 33 to 61 years old—complied, and were not physically hurt.

The robbers ran off with over \$8,500 in valuables, including \$215 in cash, six cell-phones, a silver Rolex watch, various gold jewelry pieces and a diamond-encrusted wedding band.

In order to protect their escape plans, the thieves insisted their victims "count to one million" before leaving the office or calling for help.

Pie protected

A pizza delivery man suffered a bottle-blow to the head on Aug. 3, but held onto the pie despite the thug's demands, police said.

The would-be thief ap-

proached the 30-year-old pizza guy at 10:20 p.m., near the corner of Willowby and Bridge streets. He snatched the delivery man on the head with a glass bottle and insisted, "I'm going to take the pizza."

But the thief proved empty as the victim held onto the food and eluded the thief, without suffering serious injury.

Police are searching for a black man, approximately 30-years-old, 6-foot-1, 200 pounds, with long, straight hair. On the day of the hold-up, he wore white sneakers and a white shirt, over blue jeans.

Beer bash

Police arrested a 39-year-old man who smashed a stolen can of beer into the face of a woman when the employee tried to call 911 on Aug. 3.

The man wandered into the State Street deli, at the corner of Bond Street, around 10:15 p.m., and helped himself to a brew. When the 35-year-old counterwoman picked up the telephone to call police, the thief batted the phone from his hand and bashed him in the head with the beer.

The clerk suffered swelling and redness on his face. A security video captured the at-

POLICE BLOTTER

tack and helped police track down their man, who now faces assault charges.

Quick hit

It took burglars less than three hours to ransack a Henry Street home and remove a host of valuables, ranging from a flat-screen TV to a collection of statues from India, police said.

The robbers pushed their way through the front door of the apartment, in a building near Love Lane, between noon and 3 p.m. on Aug. 2. Once inside, they trashed the home and removed what they wanted through the front door.

The stolen goods included an Apple computer, a wireless keyboard and mouse, a flat-screen monitor, the \$5,000 high-end TV, \$400 in computer software and the imported sculptures.

Although a neighbor heard noises in the apartment that afternoon, no one saw the thieves leave.

Toothy thief

A thief snatched an armload of valuable platters, an electronic toothbrush and a portable DVD player from a Brooklyn Heights home while the owner was at work on Aug. 3, police said.

The burglar climbed up the fire escape at the building, just off Joralemon Street, forced open a window and slipped inside the home between 8:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Once inside, he loaded up the metal plates, valued at \$1,000, grabbed the DVD player and, oddly, the toothbrush, and bolted through the front door.

Remain calm

Calm would have been a tough emotion to muster. But that's exactly what a gunman demanded after pulling a silver pistol on a man walking through Carroll Gardens at dusk on July 25, police said.

A pair of thieves approached the 23-year-old victim at 8:50 p.m., near the corner of Henry Street and Second Place.

"Calm down and give me your money," the gunman insisted. "Yeah, calm down," his partner reiterated as he rifled the man's pockets.

The thieves ran off with a Visa card, an iPod, a cell-

phone and a money clip; the clip was worth \$25, but didn't hold any cash at the time. The victim, who wasn't hurt, remained calm enough to remember plenty of details about his attackers.

Police are on the lookout for two black men—the gunman, 6-foot-1 and 160 pounds, dressed in blue jeans and a blue bandana, and his accomplice, 5-foot-7, 170 pounds and wearing a white T-shirt—both in their early 20s.

Gunpoint check

A game of chess between friends soured quickly when a stranger with a silver pistol in-

terrupted the Aug. 1 match outside a Boerum Hill housing project.

The robber rushed the 55-year-old victim just moments before 10 p.m., as the man and his friend played the so-called "Immortal Game" in a playground near corner of Hoyt and Wyckoff streets, police said.

The thief pulled his weapon and insisted, "Give me your money." Then collected \$25 and a gold necklace, reportedly worth \$800, from the unlucky man.

The robber rode off on a green bicycle, heading toward Bond Street. The chess players described him as a black man roughly 40 years-old, 5-foot-6 and 140 pounds, dressed in a blue T-shirt, black shorts and brown work boots.

Mystery burg

Clearly, kryptonite only works for Superman.

A mere mortal lost his bicycle and bike lock of that famous brand to a burglar who seemed to have no problem slipping into the man's Court Street apartment while he was out of town for several days.

The burglar probably climbed through a back window into the apartment, in a building near Second Place, between 8 p.m. on July 28, and 10 a.m. Aug. 2, police said.

Once inside, he helped himself to a Trek 6000 bike and the lock—valued at \$800 together.

The 43-year-old victim said the lock on the back window doesn't work. The thief left no visible signs of his entrance.

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 1st day of July, 2006, bearing the Index Number N050523206, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of: Haim Ben-Zion. My present name is: Haim Ben-Zion. My present address is: 140 Highland Avenue, Staten Island, New York 10310. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is April 24, 1969. (BP) 1

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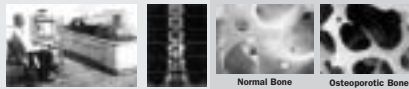
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Brutal beating at picnic

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

A group of young thugs stabbed a 22-year-old man and coldly left him lying face-down in the grass not far from his family's picnic spot, prompting a massive police search of Prospect Park on Sunday, Aug. 6, police said.

Several police units, including Brooklyn's gang task force, scoured the east side of the park after the 5:45 pm beating near Prospect Park lake, searching for the five Hispanic men who allegedly punched, kicked, stabbed and threatened to kill the victim as his family finished nearby.

All five are in their mid-20s; two wore red T-shirts, two dressed in white and the other man wore black.

Police said one of the attackers followed the man, yelling at him to stop, as he walked back from the bathroom along East Drive to their picnic spot near the Grecian Pavilion. When the victim chose instead to run, four other thugs joined the chase.

Eventually, they surrounded him and forced him to the ground with their fists, feet and several knives.

The attackers didn't rob the victim, whom police found face down in the park. But he

POLICE BLOTTER

was taken to Kings County Medical Center so doctors could treat the stab wounds in his lower back.

Capture slasher

Police arrested a 28-year-old Brooklyn man who allegedly cut the face of another man during a sidewalk attack on Aug. 6.

The brute faces assault charges after he jumped his 24-year-old victim around 4:30 am, on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Union Street. It's not clear what prompted him to slash the man's jaw, but the move caused the victim serious pain and swelling and placed the suspect on the radar screen of police.

After an hour search, cops arrested the assailant.

Cafe targeted

An anonymous call summoned police to a Fifth Avenue café that was robbed before dawn on Aug. 3, but the cops arrived too late to catch the thieves.

When police arrived at the restaurant, which is near Third Street, around 5:15 am, they discovered a brick on the floor and the front door unlocked. Missing was \$600 that had been inside the cash drawer, customers' credit card information and keys to the liquor cabinet.

Although the café is equipped with an alarm system, it has not been working properly, according to the employees, a 28-year-old woman and a man, 37. The burglars got inside sometime after they closed up at 1:10 am.

Not so sweet

A thief must have satisfied his sweet tooth during a pre-dawn burglary at a Fifth Avenue chocolate shop on Aug. 5.

A 41-year-old employee of the confectionery near Warren Street said the burglar busted through the front glass door between 2 am and 8 am. The thief left with \$600 stashed in a lock-box, police said.

Cars snatched

Thieves stole at least two vehicles from Park Slope last week, including an 18-year-old Nissan and a Jeep from the mid-1990s, police said.

The 1988 Maxima disappeared from a parking spot on Sixth Avenue, near Dean Street, and just blocks from the 79th Precinct stationhouse. The owner left the car at 7:45 am on July 31. When he returned, the vehicle was gone.

Someone grabbed the 1994 Jeep Wrangler from its spot on Sterling Place, near Sixth Avenue. The owner left the vehicle at 5 pm on Aug. 1 and returned at 7 pm, two days later, to find it missing.

Office holdup

A visit to a Remsen Street doctor's office was anything but routine for six patients who found themselves at gunpoint in the waiting room on Aug. 4.

A trio of thieves rushed into the medical complex, near Clinton Street, just before 5 pm, police said. One thug pulled a silver pistol and ordered the patients to turn over their valuables. The victims — three men and three women ranging in age from 33 to 61 years old — complied, and were not physically hurt.

The robbers ran off with over \$8,500 in valuables, including \$215 in cash, six cell phones, a silver Rolex watch, various gold jewelry pieces and a diamond-encrusted wedding band.

In order to protect their escape plans, the thieves insisted their victims "count to one million" before leaving the office or calling for help.

Remain calm

A pair of thieves approached the 23-year-old victim at 8:50 pm on July 25, near the corner of Henry Street and Second Place.

"Calm down and give me your money," the gunman insisted.

"Yeah, calm down," his partner reiterated as he rifled the man's pockets.

The thieves ran off with a Visa card, an iPod, a cell phone and a money clip; the clip was worth \$25, but didn't hold any cash at the time. The victim wasn't hurt.

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PSZ-31

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OP-ED

Atlantic Yards: A new Battle of Brooklyn

By Joe Ferris
for The Brooklyn Papers

On Aug. 27, 1776, the Battle of Brooklyn, the first and largest in the War of Independence, was fought right here in what are now the streets of Gowanus, Prospect Park and Green-Wood Cemetery.

All too few Brooklynites are aware that their fate — and the fate of our fledgling republic — hung in the balance on that historic day. General Howe and Lord Howe had brought the entire British Army and Navy to New York and were determined to crush the American rebellion.

Thirty thousand well-trained and equipped troops of the superpower of its day were arrayed against Washington's army of 11,000 colonial soldiers, state militiamen and ordinary citizens who believed in the ideals of individual liberty and political freedom.

The irony is that today, we are truly engaged in the Battle for Brooklyn.

The very liberties and political freedom that the Declaration of Independence proclaimed and the blood and sacrifice offered in the Battle of Brooklyn by patriots are now being trampled and sullied by the tyranny of a distant state government and its unelected representatives.

The Atlantic Yards project is an attack on our civil liberties, political freedom, our neighborhoods and our environment.

The seizure of private homes and businesses, under the hammer of eminent domain, for the purpose of benefiting another person, makes our Bill of Rights null and void.

To impose this megalth upon Brooklyn's brownstone neighborhoods, without the normal city public review process, makes a mockery of democracy.

During the 1960s and 1970s, with the inspiration of Jane Jacobs, citizens fought and stopped Robert Moses



Revolutionary war reenactors march during the 225th anniversary of the Battle of Brooklyn in 2001. Former Assemblyman Joe Ferris argues in the accompanying Op-Ed that Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project has ignited a new battle of Brooklyn that recalls this historic 1776 struggle.

and his urban removal and destruction of our city neighborhoods.

What is the Empire State Development Corporation? Who is Charles Gargano? Who elected him and gave him the power to forever pollute our air, choke our streets and subways, steal our sky and Manhattanize the low-rise residential character of Brooklyn's neighborhoods? Where are our elected representatives?

Arouse and awaken your revolutionary spirit! The new Battle for Brooklyn is on! Will you be a part of it?

Hail the sacrifices of the famed "Maryland 400" next

weekend at the Old Stone House and the nearby Michael A. Rawley American Legion Post.

It was there that the Marylanders, led by General William Alexander, faced a force of 2,000 British grenadiers and Scottish Highlanders, whose cannons were firing down on Washington's American soldiers fleeing across Gowanus Creek to Brooklyn Heights. Wave after wave of heroic Marylanders stormed and attacked their foe until they seized and silenced their cannons.

Two-hundred and fifty six Marylanders were killed and

they were buried in a mass grave on the farm of Adrian Van Brunt. Their valiant bravery and sacrifice gave Washington time to regroup and escape to Manhattan on Aug. 29, prepared to fight another day.

Joe Ferris was a New York State Assemblyman from 1975-1984, representing Park Slope.

The Michael A. Rawley American Legion Post (193 Ninth St., between Third and Fourth avenues) will host the opening ceremonies to Battle Week on Sat., Aug. 19, at 10 am. On Sunday, Aug. 27, Green-Wood Cemetery will offer tours and lectures from 9:30 am-2 pm.

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Bedbugs bitin' B'klyn

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Papers

They're frightening children, infesting lovecats, bloating exterminators' bank accounts, and even breaking up happy couples.

Bedbugs are back. "My girlfriend said she didn't want me to stay with her [for fear of getting bedbugs herself]," said a man whose apartment was infested with the creepy-crawly B-movie stars this spring. "We're not together anymore."

Other break-ups are certainly on the way, given that Brooklyn has the dubious distinction of ranking first in bedbug violations, city records show.

Brooklyn landlords have received 216 percent more violations since last year, according to the city's Housing, Preservation and Development agency. In fiscal year 2006, there were 401 violations issued to landlords in Brooklyn, in contrast to 127 the year before. By comparison, Queens had 388 violations and Manhattan had 220.

No wonder Brooklyn tenants are jumping from their beds in horror. And they're jumping with good reason.

Bedbugs, also known as Cimex lectularius, feed on the blood of humans and other mammals, leaving nasty red welts behind. They are reddish-brown, oval, flat, and wingless.

One couple that lives on 15th Avenue between 70th and 71st Streets in Bensonhurst has been waging war on the vermin for nearly a year.

"We've been sleeping on an air mattress for the past eight months," said Dylan Rex.

"I was up all night itching and tired at work all day. I couldn't sleep unless I ate four Benadryl." Rex and his girlfriend have since had to trash their mattresses and all of their "soft" furniture. They wash their sheets in ammonia every three days.

"I had heard the saying 'Don't let the bedbugs bite,' but I thought it was just a saying."

It may prove little comfort, but Rex is not suffering alone. He and his girlfriend are part of a citywide — and worldwide — uptick in bedbug infestation.

"The Northeast has the highest number of bedbugs numerically [in the United States]," said Jody Gangloff-Kaufmann, Cornell University's resident bedbug specialist.

In fact, she says there's been a "worldwide increase in bedbugs. It's not any particular population of people. Business

travelers bring them. High-end hotels in Manhattan try to hide their bedbugs."

She attributes the local rise in bedbugs to a number of factors, including the trade in used furniture and the demise of monthly bedboard spraying for cockroaches — which

had the additional advantage of killing bedbugs.

"People bait for cockroaches now," said Gangloff-Kaufmann. "But, you can't bait for bedbugs."

That's because we're the bait. The Bay Ridge man whose relationship was destroyed by the vermin knows all about that. He had welts on his legs for weeks before putting two and two together.

One day in April, "I just saw one on my pillow," said the man, who requested anonymity because of the social stigma that still surrounds the vermin.

"I didn't know what it was. And then a couple of hours later I saw another, and then I saw a third one. I'd never seen a bedbug, so I looked it up online."

Aside from destroying his romantic life, the bedbugs ultimately forced him to flee to Queens from the 70th Street apartment he had occupied for three years.

His mother told him that "this was a Biblical plague for messiness," but poor hygiene does not attract bedbugs.

"It's not a result of messiness," said Gangloff-Kaufmann. "But you do have to be pretty darn clean to get rid of the bug. Part of getting rid of bedbugs is very specific attention to detail and cleaning and cooperation with pest control."

And exterminators are making out.

"It's pretty intense out there," said Frank Betancourt, the owner of Absolute Death in Flatbush.

"Anywhere between 40 and 50 percent of my calls are bedbugs."

That's a lesson that the now-lonely Bay Ridge man has learned well.

"People are telling me it's a Zen lesson on the impermanence of possessions," said the Bay Ridge man.

Gangloff-Kaufmann has some additional advice. "Be aware if your neighbors have bedbugs. If you travel, inspect the hotel rooms where you stay. Pull the linens off the mattress and look at the mattress seams. If you don't see any blood specks or signs of bedbugs, you can be pretty sure you're okay."

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J26-31

Ridge seeks homeless relief

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Papers

Bay Ridge leaders are calling on Mayor Bloomberg to make their neighborhood's notorious 65th Street rail yards a testing ground for the city's new program to eliminate homeless encampments.

Local politicians are demanding that the site be put on the mayor's list of 73 homeless hotspots targeted for clean-up but city officials aren't committing one way or the other.

A spokeswoman for the Department of Homeless Services said only that officials are "aware" of the homeless problem in Bay Ridge, which experts say is not as pressing as other areas around the city.

Certainly, residents of Bay Ridge have complained for years about homelessness and illegal dumping in the gorge-like fissure that runs underneath the Bay Ridge Towers, the NR subway line, and the recent Fourth Avenue, and alongside the city-ramp to the Gowanus Expressway.

"In here 28 years, and we have always had homeless under the building," said Bay Ridge Towers resident Barbara Grebin. A recent early morning walk through the yards revealed its vulnerability to trespassers — be they homeless people, reporters, or terrorists — but uncared-for homeless.

While there were no gaping holes in the chain-link fence, various doors had been ingeniously crafted into the mesh-work, usually by cutting through the existing fence and then patching over the hole with the same material to create the illusion of an intact barrier.

Walking through the murky cavern was like traversing a poorly organized garbage dump, a forgotten underworld



Beneath the Towers of Bay Ridge at Third Avenue and 65th Street, homeless people like Miguel (inset) sleep in a graffiti-covered underground.

where fee-shirking business owners toss trash and graffiti artists paint hulks worthy of the recent Brooklyn Museum art show.

But if this is a homeless encampment, it's not a widely populated one. During the hour-long excursion, only two homeless people were encountered.

One encampment was built under the bulk of an abandoned building and was accessible only by traversing a mountain of broken bottles, torn clothing, and garbage bags.

A young man stuck his head out then quickly returned to the darkness. A hundred feet away, stood another abandoned building, this one much smaller in scale and empty of life. But someone had clearly been there not long ago. The floor was carpeted with clean cardboard.

A second homeless person, who gave his name as Miguel, was largely incoherent.

It's residents like Miguel who are being targeted by local leaders.

"Homeless people tap into the electric, they make makeshift lights," said Josephine Beckmann, district manager of Community Board 10.

"There's a lot of illegal dumping. There's also a problem

of prostitution down there. When I took my tour [a couple of months ago], there were condoms everywhere and hypodermic needles."

Last week, the situation attracted the attention of area leaders, as Rep. Vito Fossella (R-Bay Ridge) and state Sen. Diane Savino (D-Bay Ridge)

LEGAL NOTICES

State University of New York, Notice to Bidders, The State University of New York Downstate Medical Center will receive sealed Proposals for Project No. 04-188 "Tried, Repaired, Coached" New Procedure & Patient Recovery Areas and 100 inpatient beds in the Basic Science Building, 460 Clarkson Avenue, Box 13, Brooklyn, NY 11203, Room 1151, which projects will be publicly opened and read aloud. Description: Work shall consist of new general consultation, planning & medical. Bidders are required to submit a bid in a form of a bid bond or verified check. Lowest responsible bidder will be required to provide performance, labor & materials bonds for 100% of the contract. Plan & specifications may be obtained from the office facilities night, in Room 1151 in the Basic Science Building, Cost of bid package - \$40.00, verified check or money order made payable to SUNY Downstate Medical Center. A mandatory pre-bid walk through has been scheduled for 8-14-06 @ 10:30 a.m. All work on the Contract is to be completed within 60 calendar days starting on 10/15 calendar date after the contract approval date of the New York State Comptroller. Bidding and Contract Documents may be examined free of charge at the campus and at the SUNY Central Plan Rooms. Office that apply from Form UFF - i.e., Bowen's Letter, Inc., Dodge Reports, Complete sets of Contract Documents for bidding may be obtained from: Charles Reed, Downstate Medical Center, 460 Clarkson Avenue, Box 13, Brooklyn, NY 11203, or the Consultant, Section 143 of the State Finance Law requires payment of a deposit to receive these documents. Accordingly, a deposit check of \$40.00, made payable to SUNY Downstate Medical Center is required. Deposits less than \$50.00 are non-refundable. Bids must be submitted in duplicate in accordance with the instructions contained in the Information for Bidders. Security will be required for each bid in an amount not less than five (5) percent of the Total Bid. It is the policy of the State of New York and the State University of New York to encourage minority business enterprise participation in this project by contractors, subcontractors and suppliers, and all bidders are expected to cooperate in implementing this policy. The State University of New York reserves the right to reject any or all bids. J26-31

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Lisa McClain, 21 Little Broadway, Sayreville, NJ 08871-5405-4542, Plaintiff vs. the SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY, CHANCERY DIVISION, JUDGE PAUL J. MCGILLICUDDY, Docket No. FM-12-1183-06, CIVIL ACTION, Summons. USA MCCLAIN, Plaintiff, vs. COR-

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BROOKLYN • MANHATTAN • LONG ISLAND • WESTCHESTER

Connor knocks rival off primary ballot

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Papers

State Sen. Marty Connor has succeeded in getting his Democratic challenger's first in 14 years — kicked off the primary ballot.

The Board of Elections ruled last week that Ken Diamondstone, who was giving Connor his toughest fight in his 28 years in office, would be removed from the ballot because he did not live within Brooklyn Heights' 25th Senate district for the required full calendar year before Nov. 7, 2006 — Election Day.

Diamondstone, the board ruled, moved into the district one day too late.

Not true, the challenger said this week.

"He moved to 200 Clinton St. on Nov. 1, 2005 — and he has a lease to prove it," said the candidate's lawyer, Aaron Maslow, who was appealing the case this week to the Supreme Court (a ruling was expected after this issue went to press).

A friend of Diamondstone and Diamondstone's partner Joseph Kopitz testified that she saw the couple in the apartment before the Nov. 7 cutoff date.

"She saw a rubber mattress and other things in the apartment," Maslow said. "I'm not an expert on mattresses, but it is clear they were living there."

A spokesman for the Board of Elections said that the board only knows of an address change when someone re-registers to vote — as Diamondstone did on Nov. 8.

"He did it one day too late," said the spokesman John Ravitz. "It's a violation of the state Constitution."

Diamondstone, a member of Community Board 2, is putting up more than \$200,000 of his own money to unseat the long-time incumbent, Connor, an election lawyer, has been in the state Senate since 1978. He was once the Democrat's top man in the Republican-controlled state Senate, but is now a lower-profile figure.

Connor defended his successful effort to bounce Diamondstone from the ballot.

"If he won, the public would find it had elected someone who could not be seated under the state Constitution," Connor said. "Support the Republicans challenged his election? He'd be ruled unqualified to sit."

He denied he had gotten

Diamondstone knocked off the ballot to avoid a primary fight, saying that Diamondstone's "committee on vacancies" would appoint someone to take his place.

Connor went on to attack Diamondstone on ethical grounds, giving The Brooklyn Papers the addresses of two Diamondstone-owned buildings that, he claimed, have dozens of city violations.

A check of city records shows that there are 22 open violations on Diamondstone's property on W. 186th Street in Manhattan and 48 open violations at Diamondstone's building on Park Place in Brooklyn.

Connor said he was motivated to counter-attack after Diamondstone questioned his ethics.

"I never took a dime from anyone," Connor said. "So, yes, I find his attacks unfair."

In March, Common Cause reported that Connor has spent \$71,837 in campaign funds since July 2003, to purchase, maintain, fuel and park a \$34,000 car.

The good-government group said the expenditure provides "a vivid example of how some candidates use their campaign funds to support their lifestyles."

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Brooklyn Papers

TEENS CAMPS MUSIC

Smartmom needs her own vacation

THEY CALL IT A FAMILY VACATION. Is that an oxymoron? Or are Smartmom and her extended family morose to even give it a try?

For the eighth year in a row, they have persisted in believing it's actually fun to spend seven days at the beach with one's nearest and dearest.

And it is, mostly. Except when it is not, like when the fuse blows in the rental house kitchen because someone plugged in the toaster at the same time as the air-conditioner. And then Manhattan Granny does the same thing 20 minutes later.

But it's a family tradition and who wants to mess with that?

Actually, Smartmom and Hepcat's family vacations started as a compromise. For years, the happy couple spent every summer with his family on the family farm in Northern California.

Smartmom loves it there and she wouldn't knock it (ever). But she was abundantly aware that her cherished summer vacation was always spent in the presence of Hepcat's relatives, which doesn't allow for much rest and replenishment.

And zero intimacy between Smartmom and Hepcat. How can Smartmom be expected to get in the mood sleeping in Hepcat's childhood bedroom (next to the kitchen) with his Porsche posters still hanging on the ceiling?

Smartmom didn't just crave the sex, she craved the beach.

"Summer is synonymous with the ocean," she told Hepcat, who doesn't like lying on the sand getting red as a lobster (truth be told, he doesn't even like lobster).

But Smartmom has memories of summers spent on Fire Island, Monhegan Island, and Martha's Vineyard. For her, the fragrance of Ban De Soleil and Calamine is like a Proustian Madeleine.

So this year, after numerous sessions with their couples therapist, they decided to try a week at the beach and a week on the farm. Call it another compromise (isn't that what marriage is all about?)

Trying to avoid the Hamptons and all it connotes — congestion on Montauk Highway, McMansions in former potato fields, hedge-fund millionaires in pink Lacoste shirts driving red Ferraris — they went to Sag Harbor, the not-Hampton. It's everything the Hamptons are not: a real place with hilly streets, perfectly scaled architecture, a charming downtown, loads of churches and tiny beaches.

The only downside is that it's too close. With Smartmom only two hours from Brooklyn, her nuclear-family vacation quickly went nuclear when the rest of Smartmom's family wanted to join in.

An extended family vacation is all about coordination and compromise. Everyone has his likes, dislikes and annoying idiosyncrasies. And there are never enough cars.

Manhattan Granny hates the beach, wearing



By Louise Crawford

a bathing suit, and anything having to do with sand. (So why does she want to vacation with Smartmom at the beach? That's a question for another column.)

The Oh So Feisty One likes the bay beach, which Teen Spirit calls the cheesy beach because it doesn't have big waves like the ocean. Teen Spirit is overjoyed with the rental house's cable connection and unlimited episodes of "Project Runway," which make it difficult to motivate him to do anything.

Hepcat dislikes sitting in the sun and always forgets to slather the back of his neck and his bald spot with SPF45.

Diaper Diva has to schedule her life according to her utterly adorable 2-year-old. That means, she gets about an hour of beach reading (in the living room) while Duckys naps. Bro-in-law doesn't much like noise and takes long walks into town during mealtimes.

This year, because of the heat wave, it was hard to motivate anyone to do much of anything. The 10 of them spent much of the day in the air-conditioned living room, sticking ice cubes in their clothing and getting irritable. So much for family togetherness.

As for sexual intimacy, it was too hot to even think about that. And since Smartmom and Hepcat had one of the only air-conditioned bedrooms, they never knew what might wander in at an inopportune moment.

As usual, there was more than one mother/daughter blow out.

"You really should lose some weight," Manhattan Granny told Smartmom just as she's leaving for the beach in her modest tank suit. "You don't mind me telling you that, do you?"

"Not at all," Smartmom snarled. Grrrr.

FOR MOST OF THE WEEK, Smartmom felt like an air-traffic controller just trying to get everyone on the same page about breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Thank Buddha for her cellphone. Smartmom had a phone-session with her beloved therapist while lying prone on Atlantic Beach and got to complain about her family for a full 50 minutes ("We're going to have to stop now," he said. "But I didn't even get to the stuff about..." she wailed).

If it doesn't sound like a vacation, you're one smart Milano cookie. The week in Sag was as unrelaxing as every other day of Smartmom's life worse still because it kept holding out, then denying, the tantalizing promise of lying on the beach reading Anna Karenina or finally attaining the other unattainable luxuries of family life.

For the record...

The Brooklyn Papers

In an article about the Courier-Life newspaper chain's contributions to political candidates that they cover ("Local papers that pay off politicians" The Brooklyn Angle, Aug. 5), the chain's publisher Dan Holt is quoted as saying that the New York Daily News is a publicly traded company. It is not. The Brooklyn Papers regrets the fact that we didn't catch Holt's error — until now.

In the article, "Ratner Renter Revolt" (Aug. 5), rent-stabilized tenant Robin Weil was characterized as a hold-out against Forest City Ratner's plan to evict her to make room for the Atlantic Yards project. Weil does not consider herself a hold-out. She said she is on a fixed income and has no options other than to stay. She said she had not refused a relocation "offer" from FCR, but chose not to respond to the company's invitation to enter into a negotiation, which came in the form of a letter from FCR.

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

August 12, 2006

Serve! Set! Spike!

Pro volleyball players invade Coney for weekend-long tourney

By Eleazer Gorenstein
for The Brooklyn Papers

Get ready, volleyball fans and beachgoers. The Association of Volleyball Professionals league is making its first-ever tournament stop in New York, coming to Coney Island from Thursday, Aug. 17 through Sunday, Aug. 20.

"With Coney Island being the most popular beach on the eastern seaboard, the AVP tournament coming here means volleyball has really hit the big time," said Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz. "The sun and sand, the rides, the competition—it's a match made in Brooklyn!"

The Coney Island tourney, to be held alongside the Astroland Amusement Park, will be the first time many of the professional players will serve, set and spike in New York.

The number one duo in the world, Mike Lambert and Stein Metzger, are going in with one goal in mind: to win and dominate.

"Yeah, we're going in to win the thing," Lambert, the AVP 2004 Offensive Player of the Year told GO Brooklyn. "Same as with all the big tournaments. Just to be in a city like New York, it's such a cool, fun place, and Coney Island is like the California lifestyle on the East Coast. I've never been there, but I love music from Brooklyn, A Tribe Called Quest and De La Soul, so it'll be awesome to actually be there."

Casey Jennings, part of the third-ranked duo in the world, believes the crowd will be friendly.



SPORTS

The Association of Volleyball Professionals AVP Open will be held at West 21st Street on the Boardwalk in Coney Island, from Aug. 17-20. The action begins at 8:30 am every morning and runs throughout the day. Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$40 for courtside. Tickets can be bought at the door, or by visiting www.avp.com, clicking on the "Schedule" link and scrolling down to the "Brooklyn Open" link. For more information, contact Ashwin Pari at (201) 635-3304.

Ones to watch: Among the professional players who will hit the beach on Coney Island for this week's AVP Brooklyn Open are Casey Jennings (above) and Mike Lambert (right), who is one-half of the best-ranked duo in the world.

"I don't really know what to expect," he said. "I am really excited, though. The first time I ever came to New York, I stayed in Brooklyn and the people were super friendly."

Living in L.A., you hear that New Yorkers are not friendly. The first time I ever came to New York, I stayed in Brooklyn and the people were super friendly."

Jennings, 31, and his partner Matt Fierlinger, 32, who have won AVP events in nearby Belmar, N.J., are the only teammates ranked in the top five who have stuck together since they started on the tour.

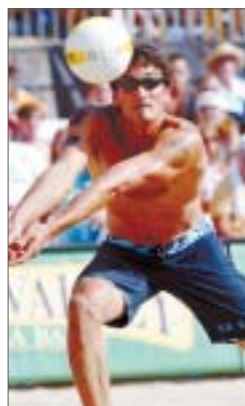
Over 150 of the top professional beach volleyball players will be competing for the \$25,000 prize. The event, which will be televised live on NBC, will begin with a qualifier on Aug. 17 and will continue through the weekend with the men's final at 4:30 pm on Aug. 19. The women's final will follow at 4:30 pm the following day.

For the AVP, which has annual tournament stops in cities like Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles and Las Vegas, having a tournament in Brooklyn is a chance to show New York that volleyball is not just a lifestyle recreation sport, but is in fact one that features great athletic competition, said AVP Tour Commissioner Leonard Armato.

Armato has been trying to bring an AVP event to New York for years, and, with Bruce Ratner's help, has now seen his dream come true. Ratner's Atlantic Yards project and Brooklyn Sports and Entertainment will partner with the AVP to build a temporary 4,000-seat stadium on the beach, and will also construct 12 outer courts with limited general admission seating.

"Coming to New York, this takes the sport to another level," Armato said. "We will be exposed to a much greater audience, with many more people now that we are able to penetrate Brooklyn and New York."

Volleyball is the fastest-growing sport in the country and is the most popular summer Olympic sport, according to attendance and



television viewing, said Armato.

Any duo can try to qualify for the Brooklyn Open on Aug. 17, between 8:30 am and 6 pm, for a chance to take their shot at the pros.

The tournament starts with 32 teams and is double elimination. The tournament becomes single elimination once there are only four teams left.

"Coney Island is a perfect fit for a new tournament, because volleyball is starting to represent the beach culture of the 21st century, and Coney Island beach is the beach with probably the greatest tradition in the country," Armato added. "Put the two together and you have a perfect partnership bridging the past and the future. I see this open being a flagship event every year and that's exciting."

EXHIBIT

Smell you later

While there are usually lots of wonderful reasons for visitors to breathe deeply at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden—like the heady scent of roses in June—this month, visitors to the garden's bonsai museum are invited to smell an odor most foul.

And the garden's billing it as a once in a lifetime experience!

BBG plant propagator Dr. Alessandro Chiari has been nurturing this stinker, *Amorphophallus titanum*

—more commonly known in horticultural circles as the corpse flower because of its signature bulb-tosis—for several years. He can't wait to get his first whiff of the offensive aroma, which can be detected as soon as the plant blooms. While the plant emits the putrid perfume to entice pollinators (like carrion beetles and sweat bees), it also seems to attract humans by the thousands who are drawn to the idea of witnessing an event that's as rare in its native habitat—the tropical rainforests of Sumatra—as it is in cultivation. (A blooming corpse flower from the San Francisco Conservatory of Flowers is pictured above.)

"Those that have been in close contact with the flower say the smell is something you really can't forget," assures Chiari. In fact, BBG spokeswoman Leeann Lavin said that the security guards would be provided with masks to help them brave the stench.

The enormous plant, nicknamed Baby by the BBG staff, has been nurtured from a seedling since 1996. On July 31, Chiari discovered the flower bud and ever since the staff has been monitoring the plant's progress, anticipating its first bloom (which will also mark the first bloom of a corpse flower—ever—at BBG).

As of Aug. 9, the plant's bud measured 64.5 inches, and Chiari, who may camp out by the corpse plant if it seems likely she may bloom overnight, was continuing to measure the plant's speedy growth three times a day and posting her stats on the garden's Web site, www.bb.org, along with photos from BBG's Web cam.

Chiari explained the need to baby-sit the corpse flower. "When the plant will bloom is difficult to predict."

The *Amorphophallus titanum* is on display in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's C.V. Starr Bonsai Museum. The garden is located at 900 Washington Ave. at Eastern Parkway in Prospect Heights. Viewing is free with garden admission (\$5 adults, \$3 seniors and students with ID, free for children younger than 16). For more information, call (718) 623-7200 or call www.bb.org.

—Lisa J. Curtis



DANCE



Dance fever

Dance companies from Brooklyn and beyond will kick up their heels in Von King Park as part of the CityParks Dance program on Aug. 12 and 19.

Two of the troupes—Urban Bush Women and Creative Outlet Dance Theater of Brooklyn—are homegrown talent, based in Fort Greene.

The Urban Bush Women will stage "Rocking in the Africa Diaspora." The unique UBW piece tells the true story of Pearl Primus, a choreographer and social activist who traveled to Africa and brought back an original native dance to America, said UBW Managing Director and Artistic Director J. Morgan Kousser.

"It's very lyrical," Casselle said. "And it includes readings from Pearl's diaries about her experiences in Africa."

Creative Outlet Dance Theater, known for interpreting socio-cultural issues through poetry, song and dance, "will be performing 'Forces,'" said Norva Alleyne, the company manager. "It incorporates the New Orleans tragedy with mother nature, earth, water and rain through modern dance infused with a little African."

Also performing are Manhattan's Nicholasleitcher (pictured) and a hip-hop import from Cleveland, Illstyle & Peace Productions.

See the Urban Bush Women and Illstyle & Peace Productions on Aug. 12 and Nicholasleitcher and Creative Outlet Dance Theater of Brooklyn on Aug. 19 at Von King Park (Greene Street and Marcy Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant) at 3 pm. All performances are free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.cityparksfoundation.org or call (212) 360-8290.

—Jovana Rizzo

Wing-o-rama

In case this year's Association of Volleyball Professionals Brooklyn Open isn't enough to satisfy your hunger for intense competition on the Coney Island boardwalk, there is a competition that is sure to hit the spot.

On Saturday, Aug. 19, compete in—or just watch—the fourth annual Frank RedHot Battle to the Bone Wing Eating Championship. The competition, which begins at 3 pm at West 21st Street and the Boardwalk, will be running simultaneously with the new AVP Brooklyn volleyball tourney. The gluttonous event will be emceed by Kevin Roberts, author of the cookbook "Munchies," a CBS radio food show host and chef at the Gas Lamp Tavern in San Diego.

"This contest is about flavor," Roberts said. "New York is known as the place where Buffalo wings were invented, so we know New Yorkers can handle the flavor. Pairing with the AVP event is a match made in wing-eating heaven, and my advice to contestants is to just enjoy it."

Sign-ups for the contest are from 10 am to 11:30 am on Saturday at the Frank's RedHot booth, and the preliminary qualifying round will be at noon.

Entrants will be assigned a heat in which they are given five wings. The top one or two contestants from each heat, who eat their wings fastest, will advance to the final round. Then, contestants in the final round will be given a tray of 20 wings, and just three minutes to eat all that they can. At the end of the three min-



Get sauced: Volleyball spectators, who want to engage in a little competition of their own, can grab the spotlight like John Miller of Atlanta (above), who ate 20 Buffalo wings in less than five minutes.

utes, the top three competitors will win.

The final round is staged for 10 minutes during a break in the championship match action, and will take place on the center court.

"In our last competition in Atlanta, one amateur wing-eater drove from over three hours away and finished 15 seconds faster than the second-place winner, who was a pro," Roberts said. "That shows the focus of our contest is geared toward the everyday person."

—Eleazer Gorenstein

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BROOKLYN

Neighborhood Dining Guide

This week: SMITH STREET

Bar Tabac

128 Smith St. at Dean Street, (718) 923-0918
(AmEx) Entrees: \$12.95-\$17.95

Look for the vertical maroon-and-white sign of a motorcyclist to find this French bistro offering a spacious dining room and bar area (big enough for a football table by the entrance). Brothers Christophe and Jacques Forgeois opened Bar Tabac, in February 2001, with a dinner menu featuring steak, tuna steak, salmon and lamb shank. Manager Frank Alexander especially recommends their mussels and "moules marinières" is just the beginning. There's mussels Provencal, with tomatoes and herbs; Diponaise, with cream and mustard; and the Thai mussels with coconut, lemon and red pepper are "delicious," boasts Alexander. Top it off with one of the Chef Leandro Villanova's "diet baskets": creme brulee or flourless chocolate cake. Open into the early morning hours, Bar Tabac is a haven for late-night nozzies. They're also open for lunch and weekend brunch, 10 am to 4 pm, with a drink menu of refreshing tonics like the Mojito (grenadine, Sprite and beer) or Tango (grenadine and beer). Enjoy live music during their weekend brunch as well as on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights. Sidewalk seating available, weather permitting. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

Caserta Vecchia

221 Smith St. at Baltic Street, (718) 624-7549
www.casertavecchia.com (MC, Visa)
Entrees: \$10-\$24

Owners Lina D'Amato and daughters, Rina and Marlin, reopened the local pizza joint Caserta Vecchia—named for the owners' ancestral home near Naples—in November 2002. Caserta Vecchia offers authentic Southern Italian specialties in addition to the 20 different takes on Jack-o'-penn, which range from the classic Margherita (fresh mozzarella, tomato sauce and basil), to the distinct and nontraditional "Mediteranea" (fresh tomato, little neck clams, calamari, baby octopus and Gosta olive). Among the pastas there is tortellini in cream sauce with prosciutto and peas. Caserta Vecchia also offers a lower carb menu with whole-wheat pizzas and pasta. The outdoor garden is open in warmer months for al fresco dining. Delivery and takeout available. Open Tuesday through Thursday for dinner, and Friday through Sunday for lunch and dinner. Closed Mondays.

Gravy

102-104 Smith St. at Pacific Street, (718) 935-1294 (Cash only) Entrees: \$10-\$17

When Jim Manary and Alan Harding renovated the derelict building that adjoins Pacifico and La Rosa and Sons, two restaurants they own at the corner of Pacific and Smith Streets, they wanted to create a retro-'50s restaurant that recalls the look of an old fashioned diner. They used blue-green tile-work on the floor and red upholstery on the seats; the little booths are lit with authentic period fixtures for a nostalgic feel. Manager Liel Guttridge says that the most popular menu items tend to be the pan-fried trout, barbecue turkey burger or the grilled chicken paltini. The signature sandwich is bacon and blue cheese is a favorite salad. Daily blue-plate specials like fried chicken, blackened catfish with hushpuppies and coleslaw, or prime rib are always popular, says Guttridge. There are milkshakes and sodas, and a full bar. The place opens onto a garden in warmer weather. Open everyday for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and brunch on weekends.

Patois

255 Smith St. at Douglas Street, (718) 855-1535. www.patoisrestaurant.com (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$14-\$19

This pioneering French bistro, begun by Alan Harding and brothers Paul and Jim Manary, sparked the Smith Street restaurant revolution when it opened in December 1997. Two dining rooms offer patrons a feeling of intimacy and intimate lines for a table. Try a romantic evening, request a table by the fireplace.

Chef Charles Stetelman's signature dishes include

★ = Full review available at

Brooklyn
papers.com

Abbreviation Key: AmEx=American Express, DC=Debit Card, Disc=Discover Card, MC=MasterCard, Visa=Visa Card



Provence en Boite chef-owner Jean-Jacques Bernat and his wife, Leslie.

the roasted half chicken with tomatoes, white beans and herbs; steak frites with an au poivre sauce; and grilled Atlantic salmon with sherry mustard, a lentil salad and roasted mushrooms. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, a \$20 prix fixe dinner is served all night long.

Garden dining is available in season. Patois also has vegetarian offerings and Sunday brunch, from 11 am to 3 pm (with unlimited mimosas, virgin Bloody Mary and coffee). Open Tuesday through Sunday for dinner. Closed Mondays.

Provence en Boite

263 Smith St. at DeGraw Street, (718) 797-0707
(AmEx, DC, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$15-19

Chef-owner Jean-Jacques Bernat and his wife, Leslie, returned to Brooklyn with the June 15 opening of this traditional French bistro on Smith Street. After a two-year hiatus following the closing of their Bay Ridge restaurant in 2004, the couple serves their French cuisine in a patterned, roomy dining area that seats 46, with tall ceilings and covered tables. For starters, Bernat recommends the "Gratinée à l'ail," a French onion soup with toasted croissant and melted Swiss cheese, or the escargot sautéed in butter with garlic and red wine sauce.

For entrees, the steak frites are a hit. Bernat's black Angus steak is topped with a dollop of garlic butter and served with green salad and french fries. The "Maigret de Canard" is a serving of moist duck breast roasted with berry sauce and served with vegetables. Leslie claims that the "Bouillabaisse Provencal," a seafood dish cooked in fish broth with fennel and Patois and served with saffron "rouille" croissants, is "outstanding."

Don't forget to top the meal off with the "delicious" crepes (with the filling of your choice) for dessert, says Leslie. The restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner Tuesday through Sunday, and brunch from 10 am to 3:30 pm on weekends. Closed Mondays.

Restaurant Saul

140 Smith St. at Bergen Street, (718) 935-9844
(AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$26-\$30

Named after its chef-owner Saul Bolton, this restaurant has been featuring creative and tempting appetizers such as the summer seafood chowder—a creamy soup with scallops, oysters and bacon—since 1995. Entrees include the "paissans," says Tony Monte, the godson of Angelo and Filomena, who has owned the eatery since 1995. The "paissans" are meat nationalities: From the streets of Gouanous came the Italian, Swedes, Germans, Jews and Irish, and closer to Atlantic Avenue in Boerum Hill were immigrants of Middle Eastern descent. The clientele arrived by tubboat or on horses, and telephoned them outside the eatery. It may be hard to imagine, but in the 1900s, the Gowanus Canal was the main thoroughfare for commerce in the borough.

Union Smith Cafe

305 Smith St. at Union Street, (718) 643-3293
(AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$10-\$23

Union Smith Cafe opened on this Carroll Gardens street in 1997. The restaurant offers creative, American bistro dishes in a comfortable, Mission-style dining room. Among the specialties are french onion soup and salmon tartar. The entrees include an innovative summer salad (with shrimp, Spanish chorizo sausage and grilled white asparagus) and steak frites with champagne mustard. Brunch is served daily, from 10 am to 4 pm, and features a bric-a-brac French toast with bananas and strawberries, as well as a steak-and-eggs dish with wild mushroom sauce, and more. Outdoor dining on the front patio is available in season. Delivery available. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Kids' menu is available.

Editor's note: These are a sampling of restaurants in the neighborhood. The list rotates, and it is not comprehensive. For more restaurants, go to www.brooklynpapers.com on the Web. If your restaurant is not listed and you would like it to be, please contact GO Brooklyn Editor Lisa Curtis via e-mail at Curtis@brooklynpapers.com.



Angelo's legacy

Monte's Venetian Room celebrates 100 years of service to Gowanus 'paisanos' and celebs

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Papers

Monte's Venetian Room, a restaurant near the Gowanus Canal, is celebrating its 100th anniversary. It's a place that has changed with the times without changing much of anything. Monte's tale features immigrants from Naples who realized the American dream; their offspring who presided over the dining room as it turned into a celebrity haunt for the likes of Frank Sinatra and Comic Franks; and the current owner, who keeps the eatery's history alive today.

The restaurant's story begins in 1906 when Angelo Montemuraro, son of Angelina and Rocco, opened Angelo's Restaurant on Carroll Street. Angelo chose the location for its convenience: The rear of the eatery shared a yard with his parents' grocery store, making it easy to run over for provisions.

Assisting Angelo was his wife Filomena, who cooked, cleaned, shopped for meals, and during her free time, gave birth to seven sons and three daughters. (The daughters died in infancy.)

The restaurant was a hit with the "paisanos," says Tony Monte, the godson of Angelo and Filomena, who has owned the eatery since 1995. The "paisanos" are meat nationalities: From the streets of Gouanous came the Italian, Swedes, Germans, Jews and Irish, and closer to Atlantic Avenue in Boerum Hill were immigrants of Middle Eastern descent. The clientele arrived by tubboat or on horses, and telephoned them outside the eatery. It may be hard to imagine, but in the 1900s, the Gowanus Canal was the main thoroughfare for commerce in the borough.

Angelo's wasn't fancy, just a small place with swadlow on the floor and a bellied stove. But Filomena's Neapolitan dishes—like homemade pasta, lasagna, a meaty minestrone (they still serve an excellent version of the soup), and the T-bone steaks cooked on that stove—engendered a loyal crowd.

During Prohibition in the 1920s, Angelo's became a speakeasy of sorts. Filomena's cooking remained the same,



Culinary history: (Top) The dining room of the century-old Monte's Venetian Room features murals of Venice by Joe Carroll. (Above) Frank the barkeep pours cocktails at the Italian restaurant. The eatery was founded by Angelo Montemuraro (at right) in 1906.

but alcohol, illegal to sell at that time, was offered to the patrons. There was a shoot behind the bar where liquor was thrown if the police raided the place, but, says Monte, "the cops never really bothered anyone."

In 1938, Angelo took a trip to Venice and fell in love with the city. On his return, Angelo's Restaurant was renamed Monte's (shortened from Montemuraro) Venetian Room. With the sophisticated name, came a more refined interior.

Doing the labor themselves, the brothers added more space to the front, pushed the kitchen and the restrooms to the rear of the restaurant, and built a small stage and dance floor. But the piece de resistance is a series of canvases painted by Joe Carroll that form a mural around the entire dining room. Carroll's impressionistic renderings of the Italian city's boat-filled canals remain in place.

The decor hasn't changed much since the late '30s. Neither has the Neapolitan menu. Monte is proud that in the 100 years of its existence, only "five or six" chefs have worked in the kitchen. Louis Chuyra, a relative newcomer, has been with the restaurant for 20 years.

"If I take anything off the menu, the customers complain," says Monte. His diners are local neighborhood folk and others who travel to the eatery from as far as Staten Island. They order linguini with clam sauce, an excellent, spicy calamari "Fra Diavolo" and one of the finest cheesecakes (made with ricotta, just barely sweet and as creamy as mousse) to grace any table.

"The New York Times said our cheesecake was the best in the city served in a restaurant," Monte says with pride.

Frank Sinatra was a fan of the dessert when he frequented the place.



Culinary history: (Top) The dining room of the century-old Monte's Venetian Room features murals of Venice by Joe Carroll. (Above) Frank the barkeep pours cocktails at the Italian restaurant. The eatery was founded by Angelo Montemuraro (at right) in 1906.

Monte's Venetian Room (451 Carroll St. between Nevins Street and Third Avenue in Gowanus) accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: \$19.95. Now through December, Monte's is offering a three-course, \$19.95 prix fixe dinner—including salad, pasta and entree of chicken or fish every night but Saturday. The restaurant serves lunch and dinner daily. For reservations, call (718) 624-8984.

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From the early '50s through the late '70s, the eatery (then owned by Nick Monte, who took over the reins in 1952, when he was 16 years old, following Angelo's retirement) was the "go to" place, says Monte, for the celebrities of that era. Sinatra sometimes sang at Our Lady of Peace, a church on Carroll Street. After his performance, he liked to grab a bite at Monte's, sometimes in the company of the other "fellas," Dean Martin and Ray Bennett. Comic Francis and Hedy Lamarr liked to hang out there. So did Ben Gazzara.

Monte remembers the night that Sammy Davis Jr., "the nicest guy on earth," he says, stopped in after a gig at the original Copacabana and didn't leave until 8 am.

"It was the late 1970s," says Monte. "Sammy and bunch of his guys came in and took the big table in the corner. Sammy performed for a while, ate a little, talked, drank and then sang some more. The place went wild. Everyone loved it when Sammy was here."

Monte's isn't a "scene" any longer, but it has become the "go to" place for filmmakers ("Prizzi's Honor"); three documentaries were shot there as well as several commercials and countless episodes of "Law and Order." It's a hangout for Monte's loyal customers, their children and great grandchildren.

"I have our older customers coming in wanting certain dishes; their kids ask for special things and their grandchildren are customers, too," he says. Here and there on a recent Friday night, black clad, tattooed diners sit beneath the huge crystal chandelier. They seem happy with their chicken Marsala, and comfortable among the family groups and regulars.

In honor of the restaurant's centennial birthday, Monte hosted a weekend block party on the last weekend of July with food and tables set up outside the eatery. Since then, he has offered a three-course, \$19.95 prix fixe dinner—including salad, pasta and entree of chicken or fish—on every night but Saturday. The menu has been so popular with the clientele that Monte plans to run the special until the end of December.

Monte's customers can enjoy the prix fixe while they await a once-in-100-years spectacle.

In 1978, Nick Monte hosted a 72nd anniversary bash to celebrate New York's oldest Italian restaurant (a distinction also claimed by Barabeta, an eatery in the theatre district). During the event, a time capsule was buried near the restaurant. Inside it are a dollar bill, a 15-cent stamp, local newspapers, a bottle of wine, gas and electric bills, and, says Monte, "a lot of stuff. I don't remember." The capsule was supposed to be exhumed at the centennial, but no one associated with Monte's remembers exactly where it rests.

"I know it's somewhere in the parking lot," says Monte. He's asked the old timers who attended the party for photos of the event. "If I see pictures, I'll know where to dig."

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Sunblocks

Borough's mixologists use fruits & herbs in their cool, refreshing summer cocktails

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Papers

No one ever said Brooklyn in the summertime was bearable. Not when the humidity turns people's clothes into wet laundry, and their hair, well, that's too gruesome an image to commit to paper. There is a simple solution to sweltering heat, one that will soften the memory of urine-scented subway stations and ease the heat-induced grumpiness that is summer in the city: an ice cold cocktail.

Borough restaurants and bars get creative this time of year, infusing vodkas with fruit or herbs and whirling fresh berries in the blender for green market daiquiris.

And, never since James Bond uttered, "shaken, not stirred," has the martini — especially one made with vodka — been so popular. Personnel at five of the seven establishments included in this roundup cited a specialty version of the cocktail as their customers' drink of choice.

Why not? Anyone who drinks a martini is beautifully groomed, impeccably dressed and all but impervious to the soaring temperatures. (At least that's how they feel after they've downed one or two.)

Max Joice calls himself a "bourbon guy." That's one reason the manager and cocktail developer at Night and Day, a bar-eatery-literary-arts-venue in Park Slope, concocted "Honey's Tease" (39).

"It's a perfect summer drink," Joice says, "like an alcoholic lemonade." Joice prefers Basil Hayden's single-batch bourbon, as the drink's foundation because, "It's the smoothest." He shakes the liquor with honey and simple sugar syrup, cuts the sweetness with fresh lemon juice, and then pours the works into an ice filled highball glass. Sweet and slightly bitter, frosty with the heat of bourbon, it's a sweet tease all right.

Speaking of teases, they've got one over at Apartment 138 on Smith Street. That would be the "Watermelon Martini" (58), the cocktail that bartender Alfred DiScipio suggests to his Boerum Hill clientele when they want, (forgive me for this) an icebreaker. The pale



pink, distinctly Metrosexual combination is a mix of watermelon puree, citrus-infused vodka and De Kuyper's "Watermelon Pucker" schnapps.

When the weather heats up, Paloma's bartender Mack McCarthy starts shaking. McCarthy, who mans the bar at this popular Greenpoint eatery-arts venue, pours a lot of "Rhubarb Martini" (58).

"The chef sautes rhubarb with a little sugar then extracts the juice. Then we mix it with lemon-infused vodka and lemon and lime juices, and shake it up with a little sugar," he says. "People are really into the drink." For all vodka-based drinks, or straight up, McCarthy uses 42 Below, an organic vodka from New

Zealand that he infuses with ingredients like lychee nuts, kaffir lime leaves, chili and ginger.

Even the name of the cocktail Scott Petche dreamed up on a sultry evening sounds cool: the "Mermaid" (58). The bartender at the swanky Royal's Downtown in Carroll Gardens uses a mix of Limoncello (Italian lemon liqueur), Stoli citrus vodka, club soda, simple sugar syrup and fresh pineapple juice then pours the tropical concoction into a martini glass and garnishes it with a sprig of mint. One sip of this frothy, herbaceous drink and you'll be heeding the siren song of the "Mermaid," too.

Keeping the oceanic theme afloat, there's Sea Bistro in Williamsburg. Sea doesn't have a bar; it has two — and a pool with a small boat in the center of the vast space. (How hip is it? Samantha hooked up with Smith here in an episode of "Sex and the City.") Mike, one of the eatery's bartenders, said the "Lemon Drop Martini" (59), a blend of Brimley's



Chilling out: (Clockwise from far left) Apartment 138 owner Alfred DiScipio pours a "Watermelon Martini," the "Rhubarb Martini" at Greenpoint's Paloma uses the organic vodka, 42 Below; the "Key Lime Pie" at Park Slope's Patio Lounge has all the flavor without the crust; the key ingredient in "Honey's Tease," served up at Night and Day in Park Slope, is Basil Hayden's bourbon; and the "Mermaid" frequently surfaces on the bar at Royal's Downtown in Carroll Gardens.

Gold mango-flavored rum, vodka, Triple Sec and a splash of sour mix, keeps the patrons' inhibitions turned to low.

Like Sea's clientele, the folks at another Williamsburg venue, Zips Zaps, know how to have a good time. Diners gathered around the bar of this tapas restaurant, named for

Spanish twin cartoon figures, are quaffing ice-cold "Kasatinis" (58). The drink, says the restaurant's co-owner Ayse Telgen, starts with Kas, a Spanish soda flavored with either orange or lemon. Into the soda goes Cava, a Spanish sparkling wine. A choice of fresh peach, lemon or mango juice is added and

NIGHTLIFE

Apartment 138 (138 Smith St. between Dean and Bergen streets in Boerum Hill) accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees \$8-\$22. The restaurant serves lunch and dinner daily. The bar is open until midnight. For information, call (718) 858-0536.

Night and Day (230 Fifth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope) accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees \$10-\$18. The restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. Bar is open until 1 am everyday. For reservations, call (718) 399-2161.

Paloma (60 Greenpoint Ave. between West and Franklin streets in Greenpoint) accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees \$11-\$16. The restaurant is open Tuesday through Sunday for dinner. The bar serves cocktails until 1 am on weeknights and 3 am on weekends. Closed Mondays. For reservations, call (718) 349-2400.

Patio Lounge (179 Fifth Ave. between Berkeley and Union streets in Park Slope) accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. The bar is open from 5 pm until 2:30 am daily. For more information, call (718) 857-3577.

Royal's Downtown (215 Union St. at Henry Street in Carroll Gardens) accepts American Express, Discover and Visa. Entrees \$13-\$22. The restaurant is open for dinner Monday through Saturday. Closed Sundays. The bar is open until 10 pm on weeknights and until 11 pm on Fridays and Saturdays. For reservations, call (718) 923-9866.

Sea Thai Bistro (114 N. Sixth St. between Wythe and Berry streets in Williamsburg) accepts MasterCard and Visa. Entrees \$9-\$14. The restaurant serves lunch and dinner daily. The bar is open until 1 am Sunday through Thursday, and until 1 am on Fridays and Saturdays. For reservations, call (718) 384-8820.

Zipi Zaps (152 Metropolitan Ave. at Berry Street in Williamsburg) accepts MasterCard and Visa. Tapas \$1-\$14. The restaurant is open for dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Closed Mondays. The bar is open weekdays until midnight and on weekends until 1 am. For reservations, call (718) 599-3027.

the fruity blend is served in flute glass. (With the pairing of effervescent beverages, maybe the drink should be dubbed the "Bubbletini.")

If the thought of eating anything on a hot night makes you shudder, head to the Patio Lounge in Park Slope where it's all booze, all the time, no food ever. Plunk yourself down at the bar or sit outside in the shady garden and order a "Key Lime Pie" (58). The drink is the brainchild of manager Cara Sorrento who mixed Stoli vodka, pineapple and lime juices and declared it "almost the real thing" — without the piecrust of course.

(It's a con: The pairing of effervescent beverages, maybe the drink should be dubbed the "Bubbletini.") If the thought of eating anything on a hot night makes you shudder, head to the Patio Lounge in Park Slope where it's all booze, all the time, no food ever. Plunk yourself down at the bar or sit outside in the shady garden and order a "Key Lime Pie" (58). The drink is the brainchild of manager Cara Sorrento who mixed Stoli vodka, pineapple and lime juices and declared it "almost the real thing" — without the piecrust of course.

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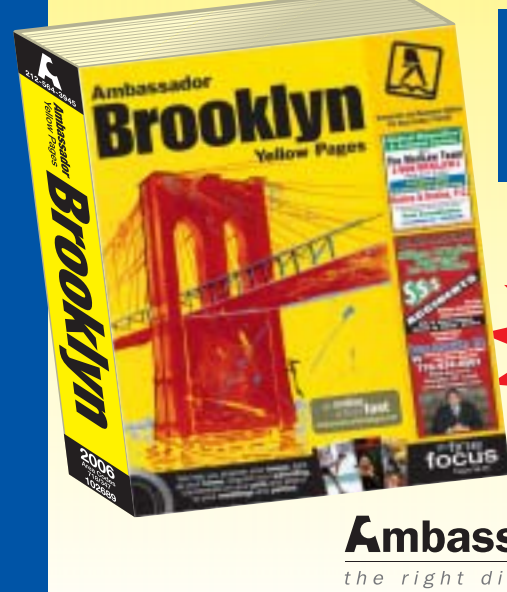
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Compiled by Chiara F. Corran

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Field general George Greer never panicked this season — even after his squad got off to an 0-7 start. Now he's sitting atop the McNamara Division.

FIRST PLACE. BABY! AND DON'T IT FEEL good? Considering how the Cyclones had been written off as dead after the team's punchless 0-7 start, it's no wonder that Brooklyn's Mini-Mets are reveling in the glory of their meteoric rise to first place in the New York-Penn League's McNamara Division.

This is a team that lives like Nietzsche: Everything that could have killed them — like the lame start, the steroid suspension of one of their pitchers and a team batting average that flirted with the Mendoza Line — has actually made them stronger.

After Monday night's win against the hated Staten Island Yankees, the Cyclones had won 14 out of their last 15 games, and notched the league's best record in the league, 29-18. Even Tuesday's loss to the Baby Bombers kept the Clones one game up on their bitter rivals.

"I told you all along, didn't I?" joked Cyclone manager George Greer. "Every team that I've been associated with that had some success had team chemistry and team camaraderie. When you take players from extended spring training, from other teams in the organization and draftees ... it takes awhile to build that."

It's also taken awhile for the Cyclones bats to get going. For long stretches during the year, Brooklyn's offense remained in neutral, unable to put runs on the board and squandering games in which the pitching staff pitched masterfully.

But the team has pulled a u-ey, thanks to timely hitting. The offensive spark has been ignited by left-fielder Dustin Martin, who was recently named the league's Player of the Week award. Martin, who started the season at the dish. Now, the 22-year-old Texan leads the Cyclones with a .327 batting average, a .424 on-base percentage and a .490 slugging percentage.

"It seems like we don't give up, we expect to win, we have a great pitching performance ... and our hitting has been picking ourselves up," said Martin. "It's just executing with two outs and getting the runners in when we need to ... I think it's just the experience that we had with this season, we've become more of a team and done things right."

ALITTLE LUCK ON YOUR SIDE DOESN'T HURT. After the Cyclones lost that 26-inning game to the Oneonta Tigers, batting coach Scott Hunter bought a rubber chicken at a novelty store, dubbed it "The Rally Chickens," and made the players squeeze it for good luck.

The Cyclones have been 16-2 ever since — not that anyone wants to jinx it.

"We don't like to talk about the chicken," said catcher Jason Jacobs. "He's a behind-the-scenes kind of guy. It's just kind of funny, I like it, it keeps us loose and it's one of those superstitions ... 'Rally' is there for us everyday."

Reliever Rip Warren laughed when asked directly if "Chucky" had helped the team turn it around.

"Aw, I don't know," he said. "There's no one thing, but the mood has really changed on this team, that's for sure." Greer also didn't credit the novelty nosebreaker.

"All teams always have to have some kind of rallying point," he said. "So perhaps that's it. Once it was 'Win one for the Gipper,' or '54-40 or fight.' There's always some kind of slogan or mental boost ... whatever it takes."

Of course, pitching helps. Brooklyn is second in the league with a 2.94 ERA, led by starters Tobin Stoner (4-1, 2.77 ERA) and Jake Ruckle (4-1, 2.41 ERA).

"Our pitching staff has done very well," said Ruckle, after hurling an eight-strikeout, no-run gem on Monday against the Cyclones cross-Narrows rivals, the Staten Island Yankees.

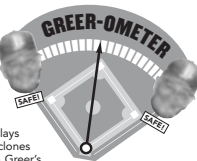
The bullpen has also been solid — after all, the Cyclones are 20-0 when leading after eight innings. The only downside is that closer Joe "Iceman" Smith was just called up to Class AA Binghamton.

"Everybody's been doing a good job," said reliever Jonathan Castillo. "Everybody's been working hard day after day, we've been picking each other up ... from Rip Warren, myself, Josh Appel, [Jose] De La Torre ... When we come in tough situations, it's very important to get the job done."

There is still some job left, but Greer isn't worried. "The character of this team is only starting to develop," said Greer. "They don't want to lose."

The Greer report

Maybe we were wrong. Our Greer-ometer, which graphically displays just how safe Cyclones manager George Greer's job is, presupposes that minor-league coaches don't get fired, no matter how bad their teams are. And the Cyclones certainly stunk up the league earlier this season, starting off 0-7. Yet Greer remained at the helm, making us wonder if anything could get him fired (answer: no). Then we heard that former Mets great Howard Johnson had been sacked as a batting coach for the Mets' Triple-A affiliate in Norfolk, making us wonder if Greer is next. But with the Cyclones surging into first place this week, a quick check of the Greer-ometer reveals that once again, the skipper is safe!



12 AWP

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August 12, 2006

BROOKLYN CYCLONES COVERAGE

Pennant race heating up Brooks split with Yankees, remain one game in front

By Vince DiMiceli
The Brooklyn Papers

The race for the New York-Penn League's McNamara Division's crown heated up this week as the first-place Brooklyn Cyclones — fully recovered from their 0-7 season start — split a pair of games with their hated cross-Narrows rivals, the second-place Staten Island Yankees.

Going into play Monday night, the Cyclones (28-19) looked to expand their one-game advantage over the Baby Bombers (27-19), with Jake Ruckle on the hill.

Ruckle, who held the Yankees to one hit over 8.2 innings in his last start against them, continued to impress, striking out 10 Yankees in 8 strong innings — including the side in both the second and fifth. Catcher Jason Jacobs got the Brooks the only run they'd need, leading off the fifth with a towering homer off the scoreboard in left field.

The Clones tucked on a run in the sixth when Joe Holden singled was sacrificed to second by Jonathan Schemmel,



Cyclone Joe Holden and Yankee catcher Jose Gil react to umpire Adam Hamari's call after the two collided at home plate Monday night at Keyspan Park.

and scored on a singled by Dustin Martin.

They closed the scoring in the eighth when Schemmel, who had singled and reached third on a Martin double, scored on a sacrifice fly by Jacobs.

German Marte closed things out in the ninth, striking out Wilmer Pino and Mitch Hilligoss before he induced slugger Kyle Larsen to pop up the left.

Game over. Cyclones win, 3-0.

But the Islanders came back the following night with an exciting 2-1, 10-inning victory at Richmond County Bank Ballpark at St. George.

Things began well for the Clones, as starting pitcher Todd Privett, a lefty out of West Jordan, Utah, struck out five Yankees in six innings, including slugger Kyle Larsen twice.

The Clones were able to put a run on the board in the fifth, thanks to Holden's single to center, which scored shortstop Luis Rivera, who had doubled earlier.

But in the Yankees half of the inning, Privett uncorked a wild pitch that allowed Winner

Pino to score the tying run.

It stayed that way until the 10th, when Cyclones reliever Grady Hinchman gave up a single to Mitch Hilligoss with Wilkens DeLaRosa on second. The speedy DeLaRosa easily scored and the happily Yankees walked off into the Staten Island night.

Despite the loss, the Cyclones — whose early season bad luck had included an Opening Night 18-0 trouncing by the Yankees — remained upbeat.

They are, after all, still sitting atop the McNamara Division.

"We're playing with a lot of confidence right now, and confidence means a lot in this game," said Rip Warren outside a sedate Cyclones clubhouse. "Earlier in the year, it didn't seem like we had the same confidence."

The two teams will face each other four more times this season, starting with another home-and-home series, Aug. 20-21.

For complete coverage of the "Across the Narrows" series, including a video report from both games, visit www.brooklynpapers.com.

Mizell continues to show dad

for The Brooklyn Papers

Cyclones reliever Jeremy Mizell has been playing baseball as long as he can remember, but the first pitch he ever threw sailed over his father's head and smacked into the tailgate of daddy's truck.

"His exact words were, 'You won't ever be a pitcher,'" recalled the right-hander.

In this case, father definitely does not know best.

In his first season of pro ball, Louisiana native Mizell has indeed been a pitcher — surrendering just one earned run in 21 innings.

More important, he's had the



last laugh over his dad. "I never let him live it down," he said.

Mizell says he hopes to work for State Farm after his baseball career. Perhaps he'll be selling collision insurance to the fathers of errant-throwing sons. — Nick Pauly

Who's a Bum!

Jake Ruckle

Ruckle and his herky-jerky delivery have earned himself The Brooklyn Papers' coveted player of the week award.

Starting pitchers rarely receive this honor, but the 2004 draftee was three eight scoreless frames on August 7, striking out 10 Baby Bombers for the victory.

The victory brought Ruckle to 4-1 with an ERA of 2.41. In just under 60 innings pitched, he's struck out 38 and walked only 6.

The Papers would also like to rename his sharply dancing breaking ball the "Ruckle-buckle."

— Pauly



Here's the pitch!

More than 30 women participated in the third annual Ladies Day clinic on Sunday, Aug. 6. Catcher Dan Cummins and infielder Jeremy Hambrice gave a gaggle of gals pointers on the subtleties of the hit and run, the two-seam fastball and how to chew tobacco. Women ranging in age from 12 to 64 participated. Here we see Rachel Eisenman, 37 of Bay Ridge, as she gets a leg up on her pitching mechanics.



Despite the Hawaiian shirt, this is not Sid Fernandez, but a new, yet-to-be-named mascot at Keyspan Park on Monday.

El Sid returns!

The Brooklyn Papers

Keyspan Park will be awash in the reflected glory of those amazing 1986 Mets on Monday, Aug. 21 as Sid Fernandez, a key cog in that team's machine-like World Series-winning season, drops in on the Cyclones.

It's officially billed as Hawaiian Heritage Night — El Sid, after all, wore uniform number 50 to honor his native state — but fans will be much more interested in cheering on their former hero and getting autographs than munching on pineapples.

Fernandez was 16-6 for the Mets in 1986. In his 10-year Met career, he was 98-78. His best season was actually 1989, when he was 14-5 with a 2.83 ERA.

One thing is certain: At least this ceremonial first pitch will be a high hard one — Gersh Kuntzman

Winning continues — right into first place



Cyclone Luis Rivera gets waved around third base by coach Guadalupe Jabalera in the fifth inning of Tuesday night's loss to the Staten Island Yankees.

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Papers

Cyclones 9

Tigers 2

Aug. 3, at Oneonta

The Cyclones completed a clean sweep of the Tigers, thanks to a 3-for-4, 3-run, 1 RBI performance by Jake Eigsti. Jeremy Hambrice and Luis Rivera each had two hits, while Dustin Martin drove in two and Jonathan "Country Boy" Schemmel drove in three.

Starter Todd Privett allowed just two runs in 6 innings, while striking out three. Relievers Jonathan Castillo and Jose De La Torre combined to pitch three shutout frames to close it out.

Cyclones 9

Valley Cats 5

Aug. 4, at Keyspan Park

The Cyclones won their 12th in a row — tying a franchise record — in front of 9,066 fans, the fourth time this season that the team has topped 9,000 fans.

Tri-City jumped out to a 4-0 lead. But Brooklyn played six runs in the fourth inning. Mark Wright and Tim Grogan contributed RBI singles; Joe Holden hit a two-run sin-

gle with the bases loaded; and Dustin Martin hit his sixth triple of the year to bring in two more. The triple set a new franchise record.

Brooklyn added three in the seventh, highlighted by a two-run double by Grogan.

Reliever Jeremy Mizell got the win, allowing just one run after taking over for starter Nelson Portillo in the third inning. Rip Warren and German Marte each pitched a scoreless inning to close it out.

The win gave the Cyclones sole possession of first place.

Valley Cats 1

Cyclones 0

Aug. 5, at Keyspan Park

All good things, including the Cyclones 12-game win streak, must end, but couldn't the Cyclones have put up a fight at least?

It was an old fashioned pitchers' duel between David Qualen of the Valley Cats and Cyclones starter Eric Brown.

Brown looked great, but gave up the game's lone run in the fourth on a double play. Qualen (7 IP), a Brooklyn native, held the Cyclones to only three hits. Brown finished with seven strikeouts.

Cyclones 3

Valley Cats 1

Aug. 6, at Keyspan Park

A new winning streak began, thanks to great pitching and some timely hitting. Joe Holden put Brooklyn on the board with an RBI single in the fifth. After Tri-City evened the score, the Cyclones roared back. In the seventh, Danny Cummins singled to drive in Dustin Martin, and in the eighth, Jeremy Hambrice put the game out of reach with his first home run of the season.

Starter Tobin Stoner (3-1) gave up one run in 5 1/3, but only got a no decision. Closer Jose De La Torre shut the door on the Cats with two scoreless innings for his fourth save.

Cyclones 3

Yankees 0

Aug. 7, at Keyspan Park

See story above.

Yankees 2

Cyclones 1

Aug. 8, at Staten Island (10)

See story above.

Spinners 4

Cyclones 3

Aug. 9, at Lowell (Late game)

Ratner's Ohio family chips in Cleveland relatives buy Bruce's Brooklyn company

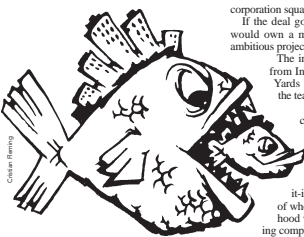
By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Papers

Bruce Ratner has called in the big guns — his cousins Charles and Albert — for a cash infusion just as his Atlantic Yards development nears state approval.

Ratner announced last week that he is planning to sell all his shares of his firm, Forest City Ratner Companies, to Forest City Enterprises, the publicly traded behemoth founded by his grandfather in 1921 and run by his two cousins.

In exchange for giving up ownership of the company, Ratner would receive \$60 million and 3.9 million shares in a new Forest City limited liability company.

The corporate restructuring — FCE already owned a majority stock in Ratner's Brooklyn-based affiliate — puts his family's \$8-billion



corporation squarely behind Atlantic Yards. If the deal goes through, FCE stockholders would own a much-larger piece of Ratner's ambitious project.

The intra-family deal left everyone from Internet instant-pundits to Atlantic Yards opponents trying to decipher the tea leaves.

"Decent move today," proclaimed a Yahoo instant-messenger named Richman, calling FCE stock a "strong buy."

But opponents of Atlantic Yards worry that profit-interested stockholders — most of whom live far from the neighborhood where the arena and surrounding complex would have its greatest im-

act — will want to squeeze every penny of profit out of the \$4.2-billion development.

"This is going to put pressure on the company to make sure [Atlantic Yards] is a good deal for stockholders," said Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn spokesman Daniel Goldstein.

Project designer Frank Gehry admitted as much back in April, when he told the New York Times that Ratner took his responsibility to FCE stockholders seriously.

"He's a public company," Gehry said, "so it's got to work."

A spokesman for FCE said that the proposed restructuring would have no effect on the publicly subsidized project.

"Forest City intends to conduct its New York operations in the same manner as it has for the past 20 years," the Cleveland-based company said in a statement.

ATLANTIC YARDS COUNTDOWN

11 441
DAYS UNTIL AUG. 23
PUBLICATION COMMENT
DAYS REMAINING FOR
PUBLIC COMMENT
(As of Saturday, Aug. 12)

The Empire State Development Corporation invited Brooklynites to comment on the agency's draft environmental impact statement for the Atlantic Yards project by sending letters to ESD's Maria Mooney, 633 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017 or e-mailing atlanticyards@empire.state.ny.us. We've asked our readers to send copies of their testimony to newsroom@brooklynpapers.com. Here is this week's letter:

To the Empire State Development Corporation:
Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project is not in keeping with the character of the Brooklyn neighborhoods that it would transform.

The environmental impact study shows the terrible consequences that this project would have on traffic in the area (which is already highly congested). Neighborhood groups and objective analysts alike (including the Municipal Art Society) have recognized the tremendous flaws in this project.

Also, Bruce Ratner's company has sought to manipulate public opinion and the process in a duplicitous way — by establishing and bankrolling so-called "community organizations" to support it, by his slick brochure that doesn't show the behemoth development itself, but displays all the honey aspects of Brownstone Brooklyn that this project would destroy, by the bogus designation of Prospect Heights as "blighted."

Why would such underhanded techniques be necessary if the project were really in the interest of the citizens of Brooklyn?

I urge you to listen to the people of Brooklyn and reject this proposal. We need a different development of the Atlantic Yards — one that includes the community in the process and addresses its needs fairly and responsibly, on a human scale.

Kate Desiring, Bedford-Stuyvesant

'Little' developer slaps 'big boys' for collusion

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Papers

A self-admitted "unsympathetic" developer is battling the two titans of Brooklyn real estate — Bruce Ratner and Shaya Boylengreen — whom he claims colluded to cheat him out of millions of dollars.

In a legal claim filed this week, Henry Weinstein, who owns properties near where Ratner hopes to build his Atlantic Yards mega-project, said Boylengreen acted unlawfully when he transferred his lease in a Weinstein-owned building to Ratner last year.

"Two gorillas decided to mate," Weinstein said.

Weinstein owns the former Ward Bakery complex on Pacific Street that Boylengreen has used as a headquarters since 1999.

Weinstein claims that in 2004, he and Boylengreen spoke of pooling their Prospect Heights assets to challenge Ratner.

But at the same time, Weinstein said, Boylengreen was making deals with Ratner, first selling the developer a building for \$44 million — \$24 million more than he paid for it just a few years earlier.

"Maybe some people are not going to be happy, but I'm not the one to block a big project that everybody wants to see going

on," Boylengreen told reporters then.

More recently, Boylengreen transferred his lease in the Weinstein-owned Ward Bakery to Ratner on the same day.

That was no coincidence, Weinstein says, without his consent, cheating him out of millions of dollars and rights to develop the nearly one-acre site.

As a real-estate speculator himself, Weinstein wanted to play hardball with Ratner only to get hit with a lawsuit.

"Ratner's people told me if I didn't sell my building, the state would just kick me out," Weinstein said. "And then he went behind my back to collude with my tenant to defraud me."

Weinstein opposes Atlantic Yards — not because it would be bad for Brooklyn, but because of Ratner's methods.

"He misrepresented the facts and no one would have caught him if I hadn't," said Weinstein, who admits that he is an "unsympathetic" victim of Atlantic Yards because he is fighting to make millions, not to keep his home, as some in the footprint are. "He has been disingenuous and certainly hasn't dealt in good faith."

Lawyers for Boylengreen and Ratner declined to comment. Boylengreen's lawyer said in court papers that his client sent a copy of the lease agreement he made with Ratner, but the landlord never responded.



Developer Henry Weinstein is suing Brooklyn developer Shaya Boylengreen for colluding with Bruce Ratner.

The survey says! Three blocks near Yards hate Bruce

The Brooklyn Papers

In what is being billed as the "first comprehensive survey of local opinion" on the Atlantic Yards project, nearly 90 percent of residents of three Prospect Heights blocks oppose Bruce Ratner's mega-development.

That stunning bit of news was revealed by the Prospect Place Block Association, which claimed it surveyed 150 people on Prospect Place between Flatbush and Underhill avenues.

That stretch is just three blocks from where

Ratner proposes to build 16 skyscrapers, a basketball arena, a hotel, hundreds of thousands of square feet of offices and 6,800 units of housing.

And the survey says: 87 percent of local residents are against it, while only five percent are in favor (and the majority of that five percent is actually opposed to the state's use of eminent domain and towers taller than 28 stories, of which there would be several).

Local residents are taking the less-than-shocking survey in stride. So did Forest City Ratner; a spokeswoman had no comment.

MEETINGS...

Continued from page 1

Herbert Daughtry of the House of the Lord Pentecostal Church in Boerum Hill, delivered a fiery sermon in support of the project.

"Atlantic Yards is great for this community," Wilks said, his voice rising quickly. "It will provide housing and jobs for black people, who this community has chosen to ignore."

This community has chosen to forget about those in poverty [and] our youth who need jobs. What Community Benefits Agreement has this community signed with us?"

Wilks was referring to an agreement signed by Ratner and eight mostly black groups. Under the CBA, Ratner has given hundreds of thousands of dollars to these groups, which are barred under the contract from speaking against the project.

Other project supporters, including Forest City's Stuckey, making his second appearance of the night, were far more muted.

Dozens of opponents of Atlantic Yards stuck to familiar themes, such as the immense scale of the project, its environmental impact, and the process

by which Ratner was given the Long Island Rail Road yard site for \$100 million less than its appraised value.

—Gersh Kuntzman

Community Board 8 Prospect Heights, Crown Heights, Ocean Hill

The need for job-creating investment came up as both supporters and opponents of Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project called for the fallow rail yards to be developed.

Race and class divisions played out, as mostly white opponents spoke of the project's negative environmental impact on the community and mostly black supporters complained of the negative impact of joblessness and high housing costs on their community.

"Things are not OK everywhere," said Marie Louis of Brooklyn United for Innovative Local Development (BUILD), one of eight groups allied with Ratner. "We aren't benefiting from the development that is happening."

Another supporter, Kevin Yard, called the project a "desperately needed opportunity for the black community."

But opponent Diana Silverman called Ratner's community outreach in central Brooklyn "ynical."

"Call it the Ratner speculation project," she said.

Fellow opponent David Raush added, "It's a bad idea to build Houston, Texas, in the middle of this community."

Stuckey, completing his community board trifecta, praised Atlantic Yards' affordable housing.

—Ariella Cohen

ANGLE...

Continued from page 1

pay to dump our empty water bottles elsewhere.

• New York City tap water is safer and better than bottled water anyway. The Environmental Protection Agency's standard for tap water, for example, is stricter than the Food and Drug Administration's standard for bottled water.

Plus, our tap water tastes better than all those fancy waters (the Aquafina that's bottled in Queens actually is New York City tap water — which is then distilled and reconfigured with Aquafina's proprietary mix of minerals).

• The world spends \$100 billion a year on bottled water at a time when the United States says that just \$15 billion could double the number of people who have access to safe drinking water.

• And, most important, rich people consume far more bottled water than poor people — so if tap water quality declines, it will fall to the politically less powerful to fight for cleaner water because the rich have turned their backs on the entire system.

In her posting, Kancelbaum suggested that Park Slopes "put aside \$1 every time we don't buy bottled water [for the month of August] and make a big donation to a local or national organization."

It's unclear how much money will be raised (or how many times I should put \$1 in the kitty — after all, I spend a lot of time every day not buying bottled water. There, I just did it again).

But that hasn't deterred Kancelbaum. Sure, she admits her posting has not unleashed a groundswell of support — but she was heartened that no one called her a complete wacko.

"Everyone who emailed me back was very positive," said Kancelbaum. "People said, 'Thanks for giving me something to think about.' People really didn't think about it." (Perhaps that's why Evan is "naïve" spelled backwards.)

One man went Kancelbaum one further, calling for a boycott of juice boxes — "another environmental evil," she said, offering no explanation. (Do you need one? Move to Park Slope. You'll learn quickly.)

The good news is that if all of New York one day taps into Kancelbaum's campaign, the city's water supply can fill our cups.

Of the 1.2 billion gallons of water used by New York City every day, less than one percent is poured down the gutter.

"The vast majority of water is used for sanitation, toilets, showers, dishes, street sweeping, and the like," said Ian Michaels, a spokesman for the city Department of Environmental Protection.

"So even if all the bottled water drinkers came back to our system, the effect would be practically unnoticeable."

So drink easy, bottled-water-boycotting Park Slopes, the city has you covered.

BROOKLYN BRIEFS

Yale on Hook: Park and park

The Brooklyn Papers

What do you get when you put the future of Red Hook into the hands of some of the Ivy League's brightest young architects? A big parking lot.

Sadly, that's what happened when a Yale professor asked his School of Architecture graduate students to plan the future of the historic neighborhood.

The CarPark plan — one of a handful of ideas drawn up by the students — calls for turning 143 acres of Red Hook into a parking lot and another 143 acres into a park (together, that comes to almost half of the neighborhood's 680 acres). The plan would create an additional 31,021 parking spots, or 3.4 spots per dwelling unit.

The plan is one of a handful on display at the Brooklyn Waterfront Artist Coalition's Summer art show.

Those with a personal stake — rather than academic curiosity — in Red Hook were dumbfounded.

"Wow, is that what they're teaching at Yale?" said Craig Hammerman, district manager of Community Board 6. "I can't imagine worse public policy."

Other student suggestions for the Hook included a theme



A vision for Red Hook designed by Yale architecture students E. Sean Bailey, Shelly Zhang and Jacob Reidel.

park, a "naturalistic recreation park with camping," an animal preserve, and big box stores spread evenly throughout the Hook, rather than congregated near the waterfront.

—Dana Rubinstein
WBAC's Summer art show (499 Van Brunt St., between Red Street and the water) continues on weekends through Aug. 20, from 1 to 7 pm.

Professor Edward Mitchell and his students will be on hand on Saturday, Aug. 12, at 4 pm for an artists' talk.



Trashed Honda art

One man's junked car is another man's art, as we learned this week. Our friend and Brooklyn Heights blogger, Homer Fink, sent us this picture of a trashed Honda on the corner of Henry and Middaugh streets. Fink joked that the car is "not Dada enough for MoMa," but did call it "the most thought-provoking 'piece of art' we've seen in the neighborhood in quite some time." By Monday, the car was gone. Art thieves, perhaps?

Boro's book fest

The Brooklyn Papers

The talk of the town is Brooklyn.

A top-shelf collection of authors, including New Yorker magazine editor Ben Greenman, has RSVP'd "yes" for the first-ever Brooklyn Book Festival, slated for Saturday, Sept. 16 at Borough Hall.

The editor of the famously Manhattan-centric magazine will join such literary luminaries as Gary Shteyngart, Robert Sullivan, kids book star Mo Willems, Jonathan Lethem, Jonathan Ames, Ann Brashers, Jennifer Egan, Nicole Krauss, Jhumpa Lahiri, Colson Whitehead and Rick Moody for what Borough President Markowitz is calling a "smart, hip and diverse" all-day event.

"No city in America has more character, or characters, than Brooklyn," the borough's tireless booster exalted this week.

The fall festival will feature three

stages for performances and readings, as well as intimate "reading room" events inside Borough Hall, including a panel discussion on hip-hop writing moderated by "Post Soul Nation" author Nelson George.

In honor of a new book about female boxing, Gleason's Gym plans to set up a ring at Borough Hall for a women's boxing match. (It's unclear if "Million Dollar Baby" Hilary Swank — who trained for the movie at the famed DUMBO gym — would make it.)

Already, local literati have begun to extract meaning from the coming book fest.

"I think the big thing here is that Brooklyn has become a center of literary production," theorized Richard Nash, publisher of DUMBO-based Soft Skull Press. "It's not just a place where writers can find cheap rent anymore."

—Ariella Cohen

HURST...

Continued from page 1

One mother has sacrificed separate bedrooms for the family, instead choosing to spend her nights crowded with her two children into a narrow den, where there's enough space to power the room's small air conditioner. The kids sleep on the floor, she gets the couch.

Another resident doesn't have enough power for the refrigerator, so she tossed all her perishables. She just bought a dorm-sized fridge that will probably be able to run on the limited voltage.

"I'm living out of here," said Kathleen Thompson, pointing to a cooler bag filled with ice.

Other residents are dealing with harsher realities.

On a recent afternoon, Loretta Hayden sat on her home hospital bed, her gravely ill daughter lay prone on another bed across the apartment. A fan did little but move some warm air around.

"It's not too kosher," said Hayden in an Alabama lilt. "It's so hot. My daughter is sick [and bedridden]."

A visiting nurse, who cares for them 12 hours a day, said it's been next to impossible to make the women comfortable.

"Her daughter has an electric bed, and it won't work without power," said the nurse, Anette Biseux. "If the bed doesn't go up, I can't feed her [unless I hold her head up]."

The angry residents, without full power since July 28, have begun to mobilize.

A sign — handwritten, of course — hangs on the front door urging residents to "call Con Ed and keep calling and complaining."

Inside, another scrawled sign lists the numbers of local elected officials.

Con Edison spokesman Chris Orlert says the electric monopoly is "trying to expedite the job" of restoring full power. Orlert placed some blame on red tape in getting "a permit to dig in the street."

He said the juice would be flowing at full strength by the weekend.

But until the power is fully restored, even Thompson's kitty is struggling with the powerless.

"I was having to wet her down," said Thompson of Queeny, her 17-year-old gray-and-white cat. "She was having labored breathing in the heat."

HEALTH, MIND & BODY

Methodist opens diabetes institute

New York Methodist Hospital

To provide comprehensive diagnosis and treatment services for a broad range of endocrine disorders, New York Methodist Hospital recently established the Institute for Diabetes and Other Endocrine Disorders.

Endocrinology is the study of the hormone-producing glands that control basic functions such as metabolism, growth and sexual development.

These glands must produce the right amount of hormones; if too much or too little is produced, various disorders such as diabetes or hyperthyroidism may result.

The institute's panel of physician specialists includes a team of endocrinologists, ophthalmologists, general surgeons, head and neck surgeons, neurosurgeons, obstetricians, infertility specialists, radiation oncologists and radiologists, as well as many other healthcare professionals such as nutritionists and health educators.

"The institute's multidisciplinary approach enables it to offer patients a variety of services aimed at treating a variety of endocrine disorders," said Farida Khan, MD, vice chair-

man of medicine and chief of endocrinology at Methodist. "The support system within the Institute allows for quick and thorough communication and easy transition between physicians," she said.

The institute offers the following programs and services:

- Diabetes Education and Resource Center;
- Pediatric Endocrinology Program;
- Thyroid and Parathyroid Disorders Program;
- Reproductive Endocrinology Program;
- Menopause and Osteoporosis Program;
- Pituitary Disease Program;
- Obesity Management and the Surgical Weight Reduction Program

Physicians and other health professionals affiliated with the Institute are also available

to speak on a variety of topics related to the prevention and treatment of diabetes and other endocrine disorders. "Many people do not know about the numerous treatment options available for disorders like diabetes," said Sabina Maktan, MD, medical director of the Diabetes Education and Resource Center at New York Methodist Hospital.

"Education about the disease process and lifestyle modification empowers patients to play a major role in their own treatments," she said.

In addition to lectures, informational materials, support groups and screening programs are available.

For community support services, call the Hospital's Department of Public Affairs at (718) 780-5367. Referrals to the specialists

and programs available at New York Methodist Hospital can be made through an individual's primary care physician or can be requested directly through the Institute's referral service.

For a referral to a physician affiliated with the Institute for Diabetes and Other Endocrine Disorders, please call (toll free) 866-4-GLAND-2 or 866-445-5263.

Referrals to the specialists

interfere with their academic day. The Healing Center groups are always free of charge and offered as a public service by Long Island College Hospital.

Don't let your teen suffer alone — please contact The Healing Center at (718) 780-1899 or email info@healingcenterkids.org.

Bereavement support for HS kids at LICH

Long Island College Hospital

Today, in our country, almost two million children have experienced the death of a parent or sibling, whether through accident or illness, homicide, violence or suicide.

As parents, grandparents, relatives or caring adults, it is our responsibility to help the child understand the loss in a way that is age appropriate.

The Healing Center at Long Island College Hospital is now in its 11th year of providing bereavement support groups for children and teens who have

experienced the death of a parent, sibling, grandparent or significant person in their lives.

A new group is forming for high school kids, specifically aimed at the teen-age experience. Teens will be able to work through their grief in a supportive, comforting environment will not

interfere with their academic day. The Healing Center groups are always free of charge and offered as a public service by Long Island College Hospital.

Don't let your teen suffer alone — please contact The Healing Center at (718) 780-1899 or email info@healingcenterkids.org.

Methodist offers comprehensive breastfeeding support

New York Methodist Hospital

The American Academy of Pediatrics, World Health Organization and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services are among many organizations that

have lined up in support of breastfeeding. Studies have shown that breastfeeding has many health benefits to both mothers and their newborn children.

To promote breastfeeding, New York Methodist Hospital

offers a comprehensive breastfeeding promotion program to help educate and instruct new mothers. The program includes prenatal breastfeeding classes that cover topics such as how to start breastfeeding correctly, how to avoid

problems, how to help the baby latch on, how to tell if the baby is getting enough milk and how to make enough milk.

Led by a certified lactation consultant, the class also covers the numerous benefits of breastfeeding. "Babies who

are breastfed are less likely to suffer from ear infections, allergies, vomiting, diarrhea, asthma, certain respiratory ailments and meningitis," said Susan Storey, RN, a certified, full-time lactation consultant at NYM.

DENTISTS

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